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A closer look

Arabic computer books flood the market

THERE HAS recently been a deluge of Arabic computer books on the Jordanian market, released by several publishing houses. This week we're going to look at three publications released by Arab Scientific Publishers. These books are A Dictionary of Computer Terms, Mac Office (entitled Al-Macintosh Lil-Maktaba in Arabic) and a book called Al-Macintosh Lil-Aamal El-Fantah.

First, let's start off with A Dictionary of Computer Terms, which is a bilingual dictionary prepared by Sarah Special Enterprises and which is definitely one of the best bilingual computer dictionaries I've ever seen. It's a 170-page book including a short introduction about the history of computers and a colorful section including basic computer terms with pictures.



Whether you're looking for terms of computer languages, specialized software, all kinds of hardware, abbreviations or even the names of leading computer manufacturers, you'll find what you need.

Mac Office is a fairly balanced book including a good mixture of information important to Macintosh users in general and office workers using Macs in particular. The book includes a brief introduction about the Macintosh, followed by several operating instructions and some nice tricks which Mac users should know. The author then goes on to discuss the programs included in the Microsoft package "Mac Office". These programs are "Word", "Multiplan", the database "File" and the drawing program "Draw".

There is a thorough investigation into these programs, and anybody who does sit in front of a Macintosh with this book should master the "Mac Office" package.

The last book we're going to look at is Al-Macintosh Lil-Aamal El-Fantah. People intending to use their Macintoshes commercially will be particularly interested in this book, since it provides a step-by-step guide to using the artistic abilities of the

Macintosh and utilizing the sheer power of some applications available on the market. The book starts out with simple applications like Mac Draw and



Mac Paint and then moves on to more complicated applications. These books are simply a selection of the rather large number of publications available across all computer formats, including IBM PC, MSX, Amiga and other computers. All books cost around JD 4, and I suggest you write to Arab Scientific Publishers and ask for a list of the books available. In the meantime, keep your eyes peeled for any new books on the market. ■

Z.N.

Computer Clinic

Q. As a regular reader of your weekly Workstation page, I have a question to ask. I have been looking for years for a special dictionary giving me an up-to-date vocabulary about computers, their systems and hardware. Is such a book available in Jordan, and if so, how can I get it?

Ghassan Louis Joha, Fubels

A. Well, Ghassan, thanks for writing in. I've recently come across such a dictionary, which is very good and which should satisfy your needs. It's called "A Dictionary of Computer Terms",

and is published by Arab Scientific Publishers. It's bilingual (English-Arabic) and it's one of the best I've seen. If what you're looking for is a directory of the computer hardware and software available, you can find all you need in a good computer magazine. You can get this dictionary by writing to Arab Scientific Publishers, PO BOX 13-5574, Khaiab 21713 LE, Beirut, Lebanon. However, I think you will find all that you need without having to write to anybody. Just visit any Jordanian publishers, they should have what you need. ■

DIWAN
holds a seminar in
Amman

A SEMINAR on the latest in the world of publishing was organized by the "Al-Nasher" foundation in cooperation with the Jordan Computer Society (JCS). It was held at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel between 10 and 12 am and 6:30 to 8:30 pm last Sunday. It was presented by a representative of Diwan (Science and Information Technology), a London based software development company, responsible for the development of leading desktop publishing applications on the Macintosh including "Al-Nasher Al-Sahafi" and "Al-Nasher Al-Maktabi".

The big news announced during the seminar was that the new versions of the above-mentioned applications would include a spell checker and word analyzer. That's not all, they will also include around ten

new fonts, one of which is the Shirah font shown here. The seminar was attended by Mac enthusiasts, several members of the press along with representatives of institutions which use Macintosh computers in desktop publishing. ■

Power to the people

WHAT IS standing between you and the latest state-of-the-art computer technology? Could it possibly be the price? Do you find yourself compelled to choose between buying a car or a computer? It's good to see the general direction in international computer markets of lowering the price of computer hardware, but what's the possibility of seeing it happen here in Jordan?

IBM, a company known for their stubborn pricing policies, actually owe their current position to PC cloning companies who sold PC compatibles for 30 per cent less than they did. This is what really started the PC market, and also what put IBM where they are today. Recently, they have boosted sales of mid-range systems by slashing their prices. Isn't there a lesson to be learnt from all this?

Apple have announced price cuts on some of their machines in the Macintosh range reaching around 37 per cent. For many, this is probably the best news in a long time. It's also a wise move on Apple's part since the world-wide Macintosh user base will increase and Mac developers will become more active, which should make the Macintosh market flourish.

Computer manufacturers are obviously aware of the importance of pricing as a marketing strategy. What we are worried about is how much local Jordanian dealers are willing to consider this fact. Why should a \$1000 computer cost you over JD 1,200?

A word of defense has to be said here regarding local dealers, since like all other business owners, they have to cover their costs and generate a profit. Of course, it goes without saying that it costs a Jordanian computer dealer more to provide his customers with the computer they need than it costs a dealer or living in the country of the manufacturer.

So, the question is: How low can they go? The usual answer is that they don't have to go lower until the machine's model becomes ancient. In other words, postpone your plans to buy a 486 PC a few years, since you'll probably get it for half the price later, especially if we live to see the 986 PCI. This is obvious from the unbelievable world-wide decline in prices of 386 PCs since the release of the 486. Still, we don't see such a decline over here, do we?

As long as the demand for computers at current prices is high, the chances of seeing a spontaneous price decrease are slim. The only factor every computer dealer is worried about today is new competition. Nowadays, PCs are being made all over the world and the simple fact is that they're getting cheaper. If you're feeling safe today, the prospect of a dealer across the road selling PCs made in wonderland for 50 per cent less than you're offering them should make you slightly worried.

Magnificent bargains aren't exactly impossible, but you have to look around very well. A friend of mine went to the USA and came back with a fully functional 40 Megabyte hard disk drive which cost him only \$30! Shocking, isn't it? Over here, though, it's a totally different story. The best bargain I ever saw here was for a broken Texas Instruments computer which was for JD 25. We don't have enough unwanted computers yet to find such bargains.

An idea with a certain degree of ingenuity was displayed by an Arab living in London when he opened up a second hand computer auctioning shop. Some of the machines were even brand new and used to belong to bankrupt firms who needed the cash and were ready to settle for half the price.

Pricing computer hardware is such an important issue for computer users world-wide. It's also pretty important for us here in Jordan too. So let's see some substantial price drops soon and give computer power to the people. ■

The Star



Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

By Rand El-Habash
Special to The Star

Jordan spearheads environmental awareness program

IT IS inevitable that environmental issues, which affect standards of living and the future of all countries both developed and developing, should determine domestic and foreign policy. The 1972 World Environment Conference held in Stockholm, for example, was the result of the interest felt in this subject by all of the countries of the world.

In the wake of the conference, small and large national and international organizations were formed and attention began to be paid to environmental issues in the constitutions and legal systems of various countries. Furthermore, environmental policies gained importance in almost all nations as a result of growing concern on the part of the public. From that time on, interest in and concern for the environment began to grow in most developing countries — and Jordan in particular.

In this period, when the environment was not a political topic, environmental issues were the concern of around 16 official and volunteer organizations. Among such organizations was the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) and the Jordan Society for the Control of Environment Pollution (JSCRP). The aim was to provide up-to-date environmental information on global and national issues, to discuss the problems with a concerned audience and to raise and stimulate environmental awareness and

action. The JSCRP, in cooperation with the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung Foundation of Germany, started a "National Environmental Information and Education Program" in January last year. Twelve seminars and two public meetings were held and seven seminars and two workshops are estimated to be held in 1992.

Through the international and national technical, legal and political approaches to resolving environmental problems are at the center of these lectures and delib-

erations, individual participation and changes of attitudes are also stressed, as all human beings are polluters and should, therefore, become environmentalists or, at least, be environmentally educated and concerned citizens. Their motto is: "Think globally, act locally."

According to Mr Ahmad Obelad, JSCRP president, several adverse social and economic practices are causing severe consequences to the environment in Jordan and the time has come

to define those responsible for this situation in a bid to prevent further deterioration. Therefore, urgent action should be taken to protect the scarce water resources and the soil from pollution.

The Society and the German Foundation stated that as the world is filling the environment with various kinds of pollutants and is exhausting its resources, climate change has gradually started to appear. They said that the increase of carbon dioxide concentration and other pollutants had led to the "greenhouse effect" and that the heat which reaches earth from the sun is mostly absorbed by pollutants and kept near the earth. They estimated that by the end of this century the earth crust temperature would rise within a range of 2-3 degrees centigrade.

Jordan is one of the few countries in the world whose National Charter and constitution include a provision concerning environmental protection, aiming at establishing a balance in relations between man and the environment and maintaining the awareness that man is part of the ecosystem. This keeps in mind the relationship between the environment and economic development, and that the measures to be taken and the improvements to be made in the environment must be carried out in harmony with the targets of economic and social development.

For example, measures should be taken to protect the shores of Aqaba, sea animals and plants from environmental pollution, therefore demanding a balance between various uses of land, shore and water and the continued development of the region. Vessels dock-

ing in the port, especially oil tankers, which are estimated at 3,000 annually, have contributed to the pollution of the area. The waste these ships dump in the sea is estimated at five million tonnes per year. Also, much of the pollution of the Aqaba Gulf is as a result of falling phosphate dust from the loading of phosphate on the ships waiting for export, and from mining and the other industries.

The scarce amounts of drinking water in Jordan have been endangered by pollutants which also contaminate the air and the soil. In addition, the fact that high quality agricultural land is also being rapidly opened up for settlement and industrialization is yet another important environmental problem which Jordan is facing. In the Jordan Valley, where agriculture is the major role, pesticides and other chemicals used against blights and pests create significant environmental problems, as does the increasing use of chemical fertilizers.

Jordan's developing industries have also exacerbated the problems of solid and liquid wastes and have increased pollution of the air, water and soil, the depletion of resources and the degradation of the environment, especially in Amman and Zarqa.

Area contamination from municipal solid waste, industrial hazardous waste, desertification, lack of water resources, erosion and sedimentation are some of the characteristics of this environmental degradation.

The main obstacle Jordan faces with regards to eliminating environmental problems and to protecting and developing the environment is the fear of slowing down economic development. This same obstacle is faced by almost all of the developing countries. Therefore, efforts should be made to awaken the interest of the business sector by increasing public awareness, by designing policies to encourage the promotion of conservation and efficiency in the use of resources, thus minimizing waste.

After twenty years, the world will now meet again in the "Earth Conference", which will be held in Brazil and will be headed by the Kings and Presidents of the world. They will discuss the re-

Continued on page 4

Money Matters

Average exchange rates in Jds

	Buy	Sell
US\$	687.00	689.0
£	1228.0	1231.9
DM	418.4	416.3
SFR	437.4	435.1
FRF	124.0	123.4
YEN	519.3	516.7
(100)		
DFL	372.3	370.2
SKR	116.0	115.4
LIT	55.7	55.4
(100)		
BLF	203.9	202.9
(10)		

Gold & Silver

	JD
Gold	7,625.00
1kg	6,650
21 ct	5,750
18 ct	7,550
Eng. pound	7,550
8g	8,400
Rashedi	55.50
7g	150.00
24ct (swiss)	
Silver (1kg)	

Deposit Rates

Buro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	3.15/16	9.13/16	10.1/8	4.11/16	8.7/8
2 mo.	4.00	9.13/16	10.3/16	4.11/16	8.13/16
3 mo.	4.00	9.13/16	10.3/16	4.5/8	8.3/4
6 mo.	4.1/4	9.3/4	10.1/8	4.5/8	8.3/8
1 year	4.5/8	9.3/4	10.1/8	4.5/8	8.5/16

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 5.75%, Call accounts 5.75%, 1 week 6%, 1 month 7%, 2 months 7.25%, 3 months 7.50%, 1 year 8%.

Lending rate (AAA) 12%.

Dollar:

DMK SFR STG Yen CAN SFR

1,546/774 1,511/623 1,778/209 133.04/13 1,191/419 8,488/15

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Jordan's oil consumption on the rise, says Tell

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

THIS YEAR Jordan will consume more crude oil and refined products compared to 1991, according to Mr Sa'd Tell, general director of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company. In 1991, Jordan consumed 2,995,403 metric tonnes (M/T) of refined products and now the estimate for 1992 is 3,240,000 metric tonnes. Whereas Jordan's consumption of gas oil was 822,761 M/T, now it is estimated to rise up to 870,000 M/T in 1992. Fuel oil has risen from 1,226,769 M/T to 1,330,000 M/T. The general manager added that there was a 32 per cent increase in sales during October 1991 and March 1992 in some products.

This sharp demand is related to four factors. Mr Tell explained that Gulf returnees have put a lot of strain on the consumption of gasoline and liquid propane gas (LPG) during the five month period from October 1991 till March 1992. In Ramadan there is also a high demand for LPG, and consumption usually goes up by 10 per cent. Snow storms also used up a lot of heating products such as LPG, kerosene and gas oil. The overall rise in LPG was from 131,000 M/T in 1991 to 140,000 in 1992.

Rumors of a possible increase in prices led the public to store up as much as it could of these products. The government, Tell said, takes certain measures to rationalize consumption. In cases where the flow is less than consumption there are two alternatives: One is to build big stocks, and this is very costly. Energy conservation is the second way, and that is to cut down on consumption. As for storage capacity, Tell affirmed that Jordan had enough under abnormal conditions.

Translated into numbers the storage space is enough for the duration of 90 days. The government abides by the policy of increasing income and decreasing consumption. This program is part of an agreement reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). For example, special gasoline (Super) rose from 270 fils/liter to 300 fils/liter, gas oil from 75 fils to 105 fils, and fuel oil from JD 50 M/T to JD 60 M/T.

After the Gulf War, Jordan's markets for crude oil and refined products changed. In 1991 crude oil sources included Yemen, Syria, Oman, Iraq, and Jordan. Now, Jordan is importing the majority of these products from Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey are still sources for LPG. The market has changed due to a debt that Iraq owed Jordan in the past. Jordan imported 1,930,895 M/T of crude oil from Iraq. It is estimated that Jordan will now import 2,800,000 M/T of crude oil, 36,000 M/T of LPG, 69,000 M/T Kerosene, 116,000 M/T gas oil, and 620,000 M/T of fuel oil, all from Iraq.

Costs of importing crude oil and refined products in 1991 to Jordan was JD 275 million. The cost for 1992 is estimated at over JD 300 million. "Products are usually purchased at international prices," said Mr Tell.

As to any excess products, Tell mentioned that Jordan has an abundance of gasoline. "We look for suitable markets for any sur-



Sa'd Tell

plus that we may have. But this is not easy, since already Syria and

Saudi Arabia have a surplus of the same product." Lebanon, Tell said, would be an ideal market since it suffers from a shortage of gasoline.

So, what is Jordan to do with its extra supply of gasoline which, if left in the refineries, upsets the balance of production with consumption?

"We have to program the refinery according to different patterns which will cut down on gasoline production," answered Tell. "But this can only be done at the expense of causing shortages in other products. In this case, these products will have to be imported."

FOR THE RECORD

By Ahmad Shaker

■ Jordan's Electricity Authority is reporting a budget deficit of JD 30 million this year, bringing its cumulative deficit to JD 70 million. The authority is having difficulties servicing its debts accumulated during its expansion program. One alternative the authority is looking at now is to increase the price of electricity with the hope of raising an estimated JD 6 million annually.

■ The foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine will be meeting in Amman before the end of May, sources close to Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber told The Star.

■ Minister of Municipalities Dr Abdel Razzaq Tubalsbat will represent Jordan at the Earth Summit in Brazil in June.

■ The Ministry of Industry and Trade will set up a follow-up office to help foreign investors in concluding all matters relating to telephone, electricity, water and other utilities. The office will take care of these matters on behalf of the investors, Minister Abdallah Nsour told The Star.



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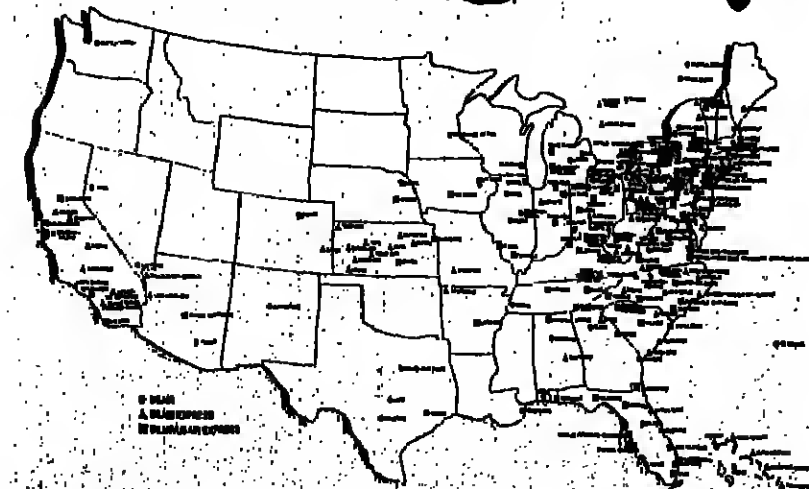
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EXPRESS

By Cristina Malak
Special to The Star

Jordan committed to child development

IF ALL of Jordan's sectors work together, children can be given a good and healthy life — even if conditions are far from ideal, agreed delegates at this week's two day national conference for children.

Under the patronage of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor and organized by the Ministry of Planning in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the seminar concentrated on issues relating to the needs of children in Jordan.

In his opening speech, UNICEF representative Mr Nigel Fisher said:

that under the guidance of His Majesty the King, Jordan has become one of the leaders in the Arab world in giving priority to the development of its children. "Jordan can be justly proud of its long-standing emphasis on the promotion of human development as a national priority," he said.

In response, the King said: "I do not believe there can be a no-

bler cause than caring for children, nor a better objective than ensuring for the young generation a decent life with health care, protection and education."

According to the 140 participants at the conference, despite the obvious improvements that have been witnessed since the Declaration of Children's Rights issued by the United Nations General Assembly in 1959, certain needs have not yet been accommodated for. Therefore, further study and analysis are required so as to find out the causes behind current problems, and to achieve the main objectives adopted by the World Summit for Children held in New York in September 1990.

The United Nations' 1990 World Summit assembled the largest gathering of world leaders

in history, with a number of 160 countries participating, including Jordan, whose delegation was headed by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

A declaration regarding the survival, protection and development of children was adopted at the Summit, along with a plan of action which aimed to implement the declaration in the 1990s.

"The 1990 convention of children's rights is one of the greatest gifts the adult world has given to children," said one UNICEF representative. "No one can claim that the rights of a child are someone else's responsibility, because we all share the responsibility. The lives and normal development of children should have first priority over society's resources and capacities. Children should be able to depend upon that com-

mitment in times of war as in times of peace."

The convention concentrates on the promise that every child has the right to survive and develop, grow up healthily and receive an education. It is also entitled to the right of being protected against exploitation, neglect and abuse. Furthermore, the child should be granted the right of participating in his or her own decisions concerning his or her own future. A child must also be rightfully considered as an individual with inalienable rights.

It was in consideration of such principles that Jordan's national conference for children was convened. It represented a practical step towards realizing the World Declaration, and aimed at studying the conditions of children in the kingdom in all aspects. It also

aimed to confront all obstacles and problems that hinder the implementation of the workplan and to recognize and maintain the achievements that have so far been made.

During the seminar, which was held on Monday and Tuesday at the Royal Cultural Center, five working papers were presented, which had all been prepared by experts in fields concerning children. The first seminar of its kind to be held in the kingdom, it dealt with questions such as children and health, children and education, children and the environment, the impact of culture and information on children and children with special needs.

Regarding each subject, several plans and ideas were put forward.

On the medical side, pregnancy, delivery and post natal periods were highlighted, as were the growth stages of the child.

Jordan's current economic difficulties were also taken into consideration, with the influx of returnees from other countries and the steady growth in demand for public sector health services.

Other plans put forward included several combat programs against non-deadly diseases. Immunization programs are to be continued, while vaccines against mumps, German measles and hepatitis will also be introduced. A diarrhoeal program, involving the distribution of rehydration solutions will be implemented and will hopefully result in fewer deaths. Final aspects of the health plans include dealing with malnutrition problems and health education in general.

With regards to children and education, the most important challenge was seen to be that of increasing the quality of the learning achievements of students in the school system. The expansion of the now curriculum reform process is already focusing on this major area of concern.

The necessity of improving the environment was stressed for giving children a safer and healthier life, while improved services for children with special needs, including the disabled, orphans and homeless children were also considered.

Jordan's experts anticipate that by implementing such strategies and by giving priority to its children in every national sphere, it will continue as the region's leader in safeguarding the development of its children.

Jordan spearheads environmental awareness program

Continued from page 3

sponsibilities and obligations of developed countries and the duties of developing countries, in addition to discussing the most urgent environmental problems such as protecting the ozone layer, water resources, solid and liquid wastes, the illegal transportation of dangerous and fatal wastes, and protecting the shores from pollution.

The main objective of the conference is the settlement of debts, solving the refugees problem, water resources and their historical rights, forbidding the transportation of nuclear waste and putting an end to the economic embargo on Iraq, as well as establishing an international environmental fund as an assistance from developed countries towards developing countries.

Focus on Jordanian Literature (12)

Samia El-Aataout: Fantasy and fiction

By Fahd A. Salameh

IN THIS final edition in our series, we will examine the works of Jordanian writer Mrs Samia El-Aataout, with particular reference to her recent collection, *Rituals of a Female*.

Samia Nadim El-Aataout was born in Nablus, on the West Bank of the River Jordan. There, she studied for her primary, preparatory and secondary classes. After passing the General Secondary Certificate Examination for the scientific stream, she studied mathematics at the University of Baghdad, where she obtained her degree.

In 1984, she published her first story in *Ar-Rai* newspaper, and two years later she published her first short story collection entitled *Walls Absorb Sound*. In 1990, she published her second collection, *Rituals of a Female*, which won her the prize for the Best Short Story Competition, donated by Suad El-Sabah.

She presently works for one of the major banking institutions in Amman, and contributes regularly to Jordanian and other Arabic journals. She participated in the inter-religious leadership seminar held in New York from 30 November 1991 to 8 January 1992, and is a member of the Jordanian Writers' Association.

Rituals of a Female, a collection of 22 short stories, was published by The General Egyptian Book Organization in 1990. The collection has three main subdivisions: *Rituals of a Female*, containing six short stories, *Amoebic Rituals*, containing ten, and *Rituals of Rebellion*, which contains six short stories. The divisions indicate thematic alternations and rhythmic variations, with the dominance of the minor key over all other tones in the stories. Hopes and aspiration are frustrated, plans are aborted, intentions defeated and nightmares realized.

The female characters in these stories mainly suffer from disappointment, and rarely emerge victoriously. They are perpetually victimized by men, by society, by circumstances, and even by themselves. However, the males are rarely in a much better position. For instance, in *A Successful Marriage*, the young wife of a wealthy and aged invalid nurses him for nine long years, awaiting his death in the hope that it will compensate for her endurance and suffering. Ironically, she dies, leaving the invalid in his wealth. Of course, the irony of the title itself becomes clear with the outcome of the story.

Samia's stories are tragedies full of pain and horror, with a persisting ironic sarcasm which crosses a comic sense, even in the most dire situations. Life, it seems, is the main source of her material; an event in an instant of time forms the kernel of her



Samia El-Aataout

stories. Details are gathered and concentrated to form a true-to-life image, rendered credible through her gifted and artistic handling. Thus, the focus of her stories is the human being in a given situation, and what he or she may, or may not, do.

To Samia El-Aataout, circumstances always influence characters, mould their behavior and force conclusions upon them. Man, it appears, is the prey of predatory circumstances and

hiding his fright within his breast, he went on walking until he reached his destiny. He raised the keffiyeh, drew it over his nose and coughed, choked by the nasty smell.

"I have borne a heavy responsibility that none could bear; it is neither an easy, nor a preferable task to count all these numbers. It is difficult for anyone to count them; and it is I who ought to do it, and look for a woman's corpse among them. Perhaps I'll find it. Let me begin from here: This is the corpse of a child, two corpses, three, four, five, six; seven, eight, nine, and a stump... nine corpses, ten, eleven corpses; twelve corpses, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen and a skinned rabbit; sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty; twenty-one and a slain bird. Twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six and a woman's corpse — I praise thee my God, but thank thee not. Finally I find a woman's corpse; oh, here's another corpse, and a third, a fourth, a fifth, a sixth, a seventh and an

empty mouse trap. What brought it here? Instead of it, there should have been a coffin! Anyhow, I'm not a mouse so I needn't worry; seven ants and three snakes — what is the total? What is the total? Damn it! Must I begin again once more? Perhaps I must.

"I must, from the very beginning. This is the corpse of a child, two, three, four, five, six, seven; eight and a stump, nine corpses, ten, eleven corpses, twelve, skinned, sixteen corpses, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, fourteen, fifteen, and a rabbit, nineteen, twenty corpses, twenty-one, and a slain bird, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six, and a woman's corpse. Praise be to you my God, but I thank you not. Finally I have found a woman's corpse. Oh, here's a second, a third, a fourth, a fifth, a sixth, a seventh and a mouse in a trap!

much taller than himself. He damned it, fell again; suffocating, he shivered, the sound of his moans rose, and he fell down a dead corpse.

In the above, we see how a man is entrapped while performing his duty of counting corpses, and looking for a woman's corpse among them. The striking analogy which Samia draws between the fate of the mouse and the man is horrifyingly revealing.

Of yet a more serious nature are the stories that appear under the title *The Trilogy of the Lost Memory*, where we find terror and disgust drawn from bitter experiences, forming the pivot of the three stories. The stories occur during war times, and the suffering which accompanies such circumstances is elucidated under the scrutiny of this sensitive writer.

But it was empty just a while ago, and where's the eighth corpse? It has fled the place! I see nothing but mice crawling over my feet, bouncing between them... and here's the corpse of a mouse, two, three, four corpses of mice; five, six, seven, eight, nine. What's the matter with me? Am I fainting? I hear a dog barking at me. I must run away."

He ran, saw a mouse move in front of him, followed by the barking dog. He ran as fast as he could, following the mouse. They ran in no direction, the mouse ran into the barbed wire, and a small trap closed on it. It moaned, the man fell down, knelt on his knees, raised his palms, and closed his ears so as not to hear the moaning. He looked and saw the mouse as a dead corpse. He meant to sit down and rest, but the barking approached. He rose to his feet, ran quickly in all directions, east, west, south, north, he stumbled; barbed wire struck his face. He looked around and saw it stretch endlessly. He looked above, his eyes met its edge



In *The Well*, the first of the trilogy, the intolerable thirst from which a family suffers spurs the son to take the risk of crawling to the well under a shower of bullets. He succeeds in bringing back some water, but before their thirst is quenched, they discover that a woman has been murdered, mutilated, and her remains thrown in the well. The discovery comes through a horrifying and disgusting experience. The father, who drinks first, feels something solid striking his tongue; he pulls it out, and finds a blue finger with a golden ring, which had passed into his mouth with the water.

In the second story, *The Asylum*, a hungry doctor finds his patients gathered around a cooking pot, and rushes upstairs to call the nurse to share the food. There he discovers that the food which in the pot is in fact the flesh of the nurse. After recovering from fainting, the doctor dons an apron like his patients, and joins them in their meal.

In the final story in the trilogy, *The Identity*, a man succeeds in passing through the check-points of different warring factions by showing each group evidence of membership, until he finally reaches the last checkpoint. There, in response to the officer's demands that he prove who he is, the man hands over all of the papers he has on him. Instead of receiving them back, he receives a slip of paper — which turns out to be his death certificate.

In her quest for a new type of short story writing, Samia El-Aataout offers us several works which all crystallize around an abstract idea with symbolic implications. Their interpretations may differ, but their significance remains firmly rooted.

Everyone in this world, it may be maintained, carries a burden on his shoulders: Responsibility, care, a stigma which perhaps one has to tolerate and learn to live with. This serves as the central idea of *The Vehicle*, in which Samia presents the burden itself as being odious and repugnant, using the symbol of a pig with a nasty odor which fills the air. But what is more frightening is the vehicle which actually carries this burden, being Man.

It begins with a nightmare, only to become reality by daylight. By employing such abstract ideas, and defying such phantasmagoria, Samia El-Aataout produces a stringent impact on the reader, characterized by helplessness, terror and disgust — a feeling which remains, even after one has turned the last page over.

Fahd Salameh is a producer at Radio Jordan. He has an MA in English Literature from the University of Jordan.

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Jordan captures the French spirit

By Frida Mdanat
Special to The Star

FASHION, GASTRONOMY, music and plastic arts will be the highlights of the French Cultural Week, taking place at the Amman InterContinental Hotel between 9 and 17 May.

"These only reflect a few facets of the rich and diverse French culture," said Mr Noël Favrelière, director of the French Cultural Centre, who likened French culture to "a multi-faceted cut diamond — the more the facets, the stronger the lustre."

The week-long activity, to be patronized by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, is co-sponsored by Air France, the French Cultural Center and the Amman InterContinental Hotel. General Manager Mr Chawki Ayoub told The Star that this will be the first in a series of food promotion activities, focusing each time on a different country.

Working together with the airlines and embassies of these respective countries, Mr Ayoub added: "Such an activity will allow the Jordanian public, while still in their homeland, a chance to learn about some of the significant features of other cultures of the world."

Fashion

It was in France that fashion's most drastic change occurred, when women during the 1920s rebelled against artificiality and shifted into the small, short dress. It was Parisian designer Coco Chanel (1883-1971) who sparked the fashion revolution, when, again in the 1920s, she launched her famous "Chanel look" characterized by the straight cut cardigan and skirts that move, massed jewelry, sailor hats and lace for the evening.

Since then, Paris has assumed a leading position in the world of fashion, constantly bringing to light new talents and fresh attitudes towards clothing. During the 1930s, France registered a peak in its creative activity and in the 'fifties produced two great giants of creative fashion: Christian Dior and Cristobal Balenciaga. Dior, who in 1947 launched his "New Look", which was a rejection of uniforms and restrictions was, throughout the 'fifties, the idol of the ready to wear industry. Balenciaga, however, produced the decade's most influential fashion — the less fitted suit and the big loose coat.

Christian Lacroix, who only burst onto the fashion scene in 1985, was considered three years later the "King of Fashion" — during this short period of his career he was twice winner of the coveted "Golden Thimble" award.

Paris still prides itself today on equating the word "chic" with original Paris designs, and with being the home of great fashion masters, whose designs inspire the personal interpretations of dress makers world-wide.

On 9 May, ten of France's most acclaimed creative talents in the world of fashion will have their spring-summer creations unveiled at the Amman InterContinental's ballroom. Eight Parisian professional models, ar-

riving in Jordan for the event, will parade the catwalk dressed in a collection of some 96 ready to wear garments — created by Courrèges, Moreni, Pronuptia, Guy Laroche, Kenzo, Jeanne Europe, France Petrovitch, Tehen and Yves Saint-Laurent.

The spring-summer collection, taken from items sold at "Le Printemps" will be accompanied by the shop's director, Mrs Lena Alm, who will be managing two fashion presentations. The first show, taking place on 9 May, will be accompanied by a Gala Dinner and a piano recital. The second will take place on 10 May during a tea party and will also be followed by a piano recital.

Gastronomy

Valuing their cuisine highly, the French have a saying that goes: "Tell me what you eat, I will tell you who you are."

French cooking, whether "haute cuisine" (which is the more elaborate style developed by the great French chefs), regional cooking, or simply the more familiar dishes prepared every day in family homes, cafes and bistros around the country, is known world-wide for its excellence.

Although French dishes vary considerably between the regions depending on border influence and the ingredients that are available locally, it remains that quality ingredients, together with subtle flavourings of herbs and seasonings form the basis of all French cooking. Essential, common ingredients include cheese, garlic, herbs, mushrooms, mustard, olive oil,

shallot, vinegar and wine.

Among all international cuisines, French cuisine is the most modified, said Mr Noël Favrelière, adding that "no other country other than France has enforced laws and principles to its working."

However, despite the fact that French cuisine has a long and solid tradition, it is also known for inventiveness and renewal. Mr Favrelière said: "The great chefs of old times stressed that food must change, like other things, according to fashion."

Owing a great deal to Japanese cooking, whereby emerged steamed vegetables and the presentation of many dishes, the

French table looks varied enough but is not heavy on the eye, and the dishes are rich, but light on the stomach.

During the French week at the Jordan InterContinental, a mélange of the traditional and new French cuisine will be prepared daily, by French chef Charles Vasseur.



At the Crown Rotisserie, starting 10 May, clients can dine and dine to the music of the French pianist Philippe Carment.

A six course menu, changing nightly, will be served in a delightful atmosphere, allowing diners to savor some of the chef's best specialties, together with the hotel's best reserve of French wines.

At the Café Boulevard, a selection of French pastries will be available daily, freshly prepared by Air France's renowned pâtissière Laurent Chevry, who will be chartered by the airline specialist.

For the occasion. For those with a sweet tooth, his selection of delicacies will surely satisfy the palate.

For the big event — the Gala Dinner, InterContinental Food and Beverage Manager, Mr Roland Porcette, told The Star that "the menu has been all set." Prepared jointly by himself and the French chef Vasseur, the elaborate menu comprises eight courses, starting with sliced smoked duck, chicken consommé with snails and salmon paupiettes with rose butter, followed by lemon sorbet with champagne and tornado Rossini with artichokes and potatoes, and finishing with a variety of cheeses and salad, strawberry mousse with sauce and then coffee and chocolate.

Plastic Arts

The way in which Jordan is seen through the eyes of French photographers will be revealed at the photo-painting exhibition, also organized during the week-long activities.

Entitled "Double Visions of Jordan", the exhibition depicts Jordan's archaeological sites and landscapes as seen through the camera lenses of two French photographers who recently visited the country for the occasion.

Another side of France will be featured in a paintings exhibition entitled "This is France", illustrating in a cartoon style, scenes of France as perceived by ten French cartoonists.

The French Week will run from 9 to 17 May 1992 at the Jordan InterContinental.

Jerash festival struggles ahead despite problems

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

THE EXPECTED amplitude of Jordan's up-and-coming Jerash festival will be affected by this year by the incompleteness of the Jerash road, which has been under construction since last year, said Mr Akram Masarwah, director of the Jerash festival.

When previously used, the road allowed a 35 minute journey to Jerash from Amman. This year, as was the case last year, guests will be obliged to take the Sukhna road through Zarka, which means an extra 25 kilometers' driving. Last year's experience indicated that the new diversion was discouraging for visitors, in spite of the fact that the road is comfortable and has well-placed signs facilitating driving.

According to the Ministry of Public Works, this winter's snow has deteriorated the condition of the Jerash road even more, inflicting it with additional slides and holes. This situation has meant postponing finishing the road until the end of the year.

The festival itself was first started by Her Majesty Queen Noor, 11 years ago. This year, the duration of the festival will not extend more than ten days, while only two Arab countries will perform (Syria and Lebanon), together with local troupes.

In previous years, up to 45 international dance, singing and theater groups used to participate. Last year, the consequences of the Gulf war and uncertainty about the country's stability, in addition to the road problem, brought this number down to only two foreign entries, Lebanon and Spain.

"This year the festival's program will be limited to drama, music and poetry reading," said Mr Masarwah. "Considering the existing problem with the road, we didn't want to take risks and have poor attendance; that's why we didn't give the festival its full shape."

He also stressed that the festival's higher committee, of which Her Majesty Queen Noor is chairperson, prefers to wait another year until the road is in order and brings back the usual number of visitors, which is an attraction in itself.

The Jerash festival will not have its usual book fair and handicraft exhibition this year, in addition to other art shows. However, it will have other attractions within an appointed domain. One of them will be the promotion of new names in Arabic poetry.

According to Mr Masarwah, the higher committee have invited promising, talented, young poets to the festival, chosen for the challenges they have made to



Jerash: Site of Jordan's biggest cultural event

old poetic forms and the new poetic expression they have created. These contemporary poets will give recitals along with their classically-oriented colleagues.

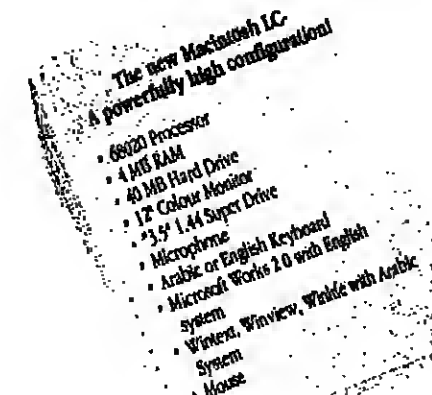
"The Jerash festival's higher committee doesn't interfere with or orient art work by putting limits or standards as criteria for their participation," said Mr Masarwah. "We evaluate art, creation and originality. This democratic way of dealing with artists has given the Jerash festival high credibility, which we can only be proud of."

The Jerash festival for culture and arts has its home in the center of this Graeco-Roman city and its beautiful Roman amphitheater. It has the task of stimulating artistic and cultural movements, and of helping Jordan's culture interact with world countries. Furthermore, it helps stimulate the tourism industry in the Kingdom.

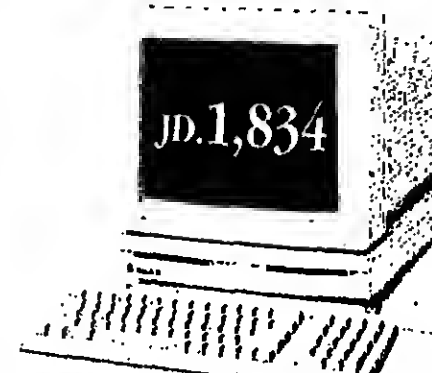
This year, the Jerash festival organizers have prepared a number of excitements and new attractions. But, for now, they plan to keep them as a surprise.

Attention ... Students, Teachers
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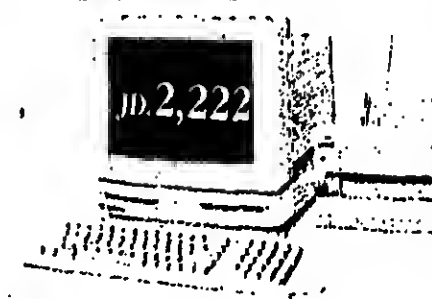


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A different kind of drugs war

By Naseem Abdallah

THIS IS the stuff Hollywood's modern horror movies are made of — humankind held hostage to unscrupulous suppliers of its vital needs, such as medicines. With the scandals over baby milk, cooking oil and other essential food commodities still fresh in public memory, the world community must now cope with yet another threat to its well-being: Fake drugs.

Counterfeit medicines supplied over the counter is no longer a rare occurrence. It is approaching in scale the illegal global trade in narcotic drugs. UN experts reckon the fake drug business already is worth several billion dollars a year.

Dr Hu Ching-ll, assistant director-general of the World Health Organization, in a recent crisis management meeting warned that in addition to huge financial losses, fake drugs presented unsuspecting people — and often, their doctors — with lethal consequences. "Pharmaceutical products that are marketed without having passed the regulatory channels may be of low standard. They may contain little or no active constituent. A patient suffering from a serious disease who receives such a product will be

deprived of proper treatment. In these circumstances, lack of therapeutic activities can be lethal."

But drugs that don't work are not the only ones at the center of a growing international unease over the problem. Many counterfeit medicines are known to contain toxic substitutes for the real thing and thus are doubly dangerous. The recent deaths of Nigerian children who were administered what their parents believed to be a cough medicine has illustrated the problem.

Most public health experts believe the issue is too complex. With advanced technology within easy access, the fakers are able to reproduce labels and other specifications exactly as seen on the genuine article.

Doctors, pharmacists and other health care professionals may have to be re-educated at enormous costs to the public exchequer to help them detect counterfeit drugs. There are vast implications also for police and custom officers, as with narcotic drugs, piracy of computer software and copyright material. Who will cover those costs? No one knows.

Already the impact of a growing public awareness — that not all medicines are what they seem

— seems considerable. In a view expressed by Hu Ching-ll and echoed by other health experts, public confidence in the medical establishment was bound to be eroded without a reliable assurance of quality of the medicines in the market.

A further knock to public confidence in the medical establishment has been delivered by competition among Western suppliers of pharmaceuticals. Fluctuations in the prices of medicines have allowed importers to by-pass major manufacturers, who are up in arms over impending loss of profits. The prices of some medicines may differ as much as 100 per cent between the more and less developed countries of Europe.

The risk in these parallel imports is that drug companies will become too involved with staying competitive and divert money usually reserved for research into better marketing — and defense of their markets. The counter argument, of course, is that big pharmaceutical companies rake up too much profit and they deserve to be brought down from their high horse. All in all, the outlook for the ordinary person in need of safe and early treatment has never been dimmer.

Academic File



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Our Say...

Time to heal the wounds

TWO CALLS echoed recently throughout the Arab world calling for Arab reconciliation. One came from UAE President Sheikh Zayed and the other from Arab League General Secretary Dr Ismat Abdel Maguid. Sheikh Zayed's statements are of particular importance because they came from a Gulf leader who belongs to a group of Arab leaders who have been hesitant so far in forgetting the past and looking forward to an era of Arab cooperation. Sheikh Zayed said reconciliation requires courage, and indeed this is the one trait that Arab leaders need most at this stage.

For Jordanians reconciliation has been a national demand ever since the sad events of the Gulf War, which created a wide rift separating one Arab country from the other and isolated one sub-region from the other. The call for reconciliation, made first by His Majesty the King, serves the sole purpose of pooling Arab resources together at a time when the Arab region is the target of an unprecedented foreign intervention, whose aim is to control the region's future and rich resources.

It is unfortunate that the King's call then fell on deaf ears. Since the end of the Gulf War, Arab common action became a mirage, a myth and even a farce. The result is evident today in the political and economic realities of the region. Iraq continues to suffer under the most cruel economic embargo; Libya is isolated in an attempt to force it into submission at the expense of its sovereignty. Palestinians are at the mercy of a barbaric occupying power while Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt face economic hardships and political challenges. The Gulf countries have opted for isolation in order to maintain their wealth and a semblance of independence. Sudan is fighting its own civil war while its population face the spectre of starvation and famine. Somalis have already succumbed to slow death in its ugliest form. The fact is that nowhere in the vast Arab region do we see optimistic prospects.

This is not all due to the Gulf War and its deep-seated repercussions. The Arab world has been facing these and other challenges for many decades, but there has always been a minimum level of cooperation through the Arab League and its various institutions within the framework of inter-regional cooperation. The fact of the matter is that no single Arab country can survive in today's world without some form of a regional set-up that can mobilize the region's economic and human potentials.

Sheikh Zayed's statements are enough though. There has to be a courageous move on the part of those who have opposed reconciliation so far to change their attitudes. The present situation can continue for another year or two, but we believe geo-political realities will make reconciliation a necessity even for those who oppose it today.

One country which can spearhead the drive for reconciliation is Saudi Arabia. Alas, the Saudis have not been so forthcoming in responding to calls of reconciliation. The Gulf War has driven a wedge which can only be extracted by brave leaders who put the future and interests of their own people above anything else. It would not serve a good purpose to open fresh wounds and hurl accusations at this country or that. But what would be a great and historical gesture would be to leave the past behind and initiate a new phase of inter-Arab cooperation. Otherwise myopic views will only usher the region into despair — the results of which will be devastating to all.

Letter from Washington America's war on itself

By Jenab Tutunji

THE DAY after the world learnt of the notorious verdict in the Rodney King case, I went to pick up my TV set from the repair shop. Having missed television news coverage the night before, I found myself bombarded by a host of images of smoke rising in black clouds from fire gutted neighborhoods: South central Los Angeles was burning.

In the worst riots that the United States had witnessed in over half a century, an orgy of arson and looting began on April 30, in the course of which more than 55 people were killed almost 2000 wounded, over 3700 fires were reported and more than 6000 people were arrested. Property damage in L.A. was spread, although in a limited fashion, to San Francisco, Seattle and Atlanta. Protests in New York and Washington have been non-violent. The perpetrators of the violence were not all black, poor youth of all races from inner city ghettos took part in the orgy of looting burning, but it was primarily black anger, sparked by the verdict, being vented against a system that frustrated them beyond endurance. The situation was finally brought under control by deploying almost 10,000 national guard members, troops and special police officers in L.A.

What went wrong? Most reasonable people had expected a verdict of guilty in the case of the L.A. police officers who had been videotaped beating the black motorist, Rodney King, after a high speed chase. The entire nation had seen a prone Mr. King being repeatedly and mercilessly kicked and beaten with batons by the cops in a frenzy of brutality, as though they were tenderizing a piece of meat. Ironically, it was a gentle and compassionate Rodney King who appeared on television two days after the riots began to appeal for racial harmony and an end to the violence.

How could the jury have failed to convict? The answer to that question also explains the connection between the miscarriage of justice and hopelessness, poverty and alienation whose victims are mainly black residents of inner city neighborhoods. The treatment that Rodney King received is a vivid metaphor, in miniature, for the solution being applied today to the nation's urban ghettos.

A quarter century ago, in the wake of similar urban riots, President Lyndon Johnson declared a "war on poverty." Today the life expectancy of black Americans in inner city neighborhoods of the most affluent nation on earth is lower than the life expectancy of citizens of Bangladesh. One third of black families live below the poverty line. The majority of inner city black children are raised by a single parent. There are more blacks in jail than there are in colleges. One quarter of black males between the ages of 20 and 29 are behind bars. The main cause of death for black males in these ghettos is violence. Jack Kemp, the secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the only member of the Bush cabinet known to have been genuinely concerned with the problems of the urban poor, wrote in an op-ed piece in the Washington Post: "... of the more than 44 million small businesses nationwide, blacks own only about 450,000. Black Americans represent more than 12 per cent of the population, yet control only one half of one per cent of the nation's capital stock."

The saving grace of the American system has always been that it guaranteed po-

litical equality in spite of economic inequality. It was thought that this protection had been extended to the country's black population after the protests and the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Many people may have believed this. Today, according to a Washington Post ABC news poll, 78 per cent of all blacks believe that the Rodney King case shows that "blacks cannot get justice in this country." Only 1 per cent of all blacks agree that "police in most cities treat blacks as fairly as they treat whites." Eighty nine per cent believe that neither blacks nor other minorities can expect fair treatment from the criminal justice system. The president of the predominantly black Howard University in the nation's capital wrote after the latest episode of violence that "the oppression and racism that sparked the riots in 1968 are alive and perhaps stronger than ever." Washington Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly was quoted on television as saying that "We are sitting on a tinder box, not only here in this city but all over America."

Finding itself unwilling to shoulder the financial burden of dealing with the problem of structural poverty and socio-economic inequality, the nation has opted for an ostrich like solution. As the Reagan and Bush administrations have drastically cut funds for welfare programs and inner city projects, the poor have gotten poorer even as the rich got richer. The middle class has opted to continue the migration out of the inner city districts into the suburbs. This migration has left urban slums and ghettos, breeding grounds of unemployment and despair. In Los Angeles, for instance, the "Angels" moved out to places such as Simi Valley (residents of which made up the jury which found the officers in the city area concentrated in San Fernando Valley, which is separated from the city center by a mountain range).

In the absence of an economic solution to poverty, the middle class depends on the police to keep a lid on the situation through force and coercion. Ira Socol, retired New York City police officer, wrote in the New York Times: "We send our police out to fight a war on drugs and a war on crime. We send them far away from our comfortable neighborhoods, to places we don't understand, to preserve our lives and life style. We send them out poorly equipped and trained for 'combat', and with no political support for efforts to win the hearts and minds of the inner city population."

Meanwhile, the ghettos have spawned street gangs which regard the police, whom they call pigs, as the enemy. After the riots, Ted Koppel interviewed two former members of L.A. gangs: the Crips and the Bloods. Explaining the widespread looting that took place, the one whose gang name is Little Monster said: "It's not just the Rodney King verdict. It's 400 years of oppression." The other, called Bone, said he was against burning down apartment buildings and grocery stores, but was in favor of burning down Korean-owned liquor stores, which just contribute to the problems of the ghettos. "You get the working class people saying, 'They've ripped off the 380s (Savings and Loan institutions) for \$500 billion. Why shouldn't I get that VCR I want, or get that fruit or coke I want. You know, I work hard, I deserve it... Don't let Gates (police chief) deceive you that these are thugs.'"

Jenab Tutunji is a Jordanian journalist living in Washington.

The Libyan affair: A case of double standards and false intentions

By Dr. Marwan Asmar

FOR MOST Arabs, UN Security Council resolution number 784 on Libya can only be seen as a blatant attempt by the United States to tighten its hegemony over the Arab region. The timing of the resolution is significant since it comes as the Arab world is still recuperating from the trials and tribulations of the Gulf War — a war that was characterized by its enormous destructive capacity on Iraq. The Gulf War coincided with the collapse and disintegration of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

This last development has enabled the United States, as the leader of the Western nations, to manipulate the UN in such a way that it now manages to give legal coverage to policies and aims that are unmistakably manufactured in the US State Dept. That was the case with Iraq and it is today with Libya. This *de facto* control of the international organization and its most important legal and executive arm, the Security Council, by the United States, simply topples long held conventions about the neutrality of international law and other conventions.

Sovereignty and law

As far as the Libyan case is concerned the question is not whether two of its citizens were involved in the Lockerbie disaster, rather it involves wider questions of sovereignty, territorial integrity and international law.

Territorial sovereignty makes up for the lack of political and economic power which small states may exhibit. Sovereignty, for example, gives these smaller states important channels of communication in the international system and enable them to deal with other states on an equal footing.

Foreign interference in the internal affairs of any country is considered, in the UN's view, an infringement on that state's sovereignty. Nationality and citizenship are two fundamental components of sovereignty. Modern states see it as their duty to protect their citizens from external aggression and go to great lengths to do so. To attempt to separate state from citizenship would be to undermine the former both in the eyes of other states and in the eyes of their own nationals.

For Libya, to hand over two of its citizens to be tried and sentenced in a foreign country, — something which has never happened before — would be to create such a precedent in world affairs that the concept of sovereignty and territorial integrity would be permanently under threat. Not only that but also there is always the danger that big and powerful states would enforce their will on small and weak states and therefore the concept of justice would become one-sided, meaning that only rich and powerful states would be in a position to enforce international law as they see fit.

What is also unprecedented in the UN resolution is that it dictates to Libya whom it shall deal with in future. The point about cutting alleged links with the IRA, a British condition, does not end there but demands from Libya to hand over names of IRA members, which the British believe Libya has. This has far reaching implications because it dictates upon Libya, a sovereign country and a member of the United Nations, conditions regarding its right to establish relationships with whom it likes.

Similarly, the third demand of the resolution (a French one) which calls on Libya to give the names of suspected terrorists behind the bombing of a French airliner over Niger, is also an infringement because it compels Libya to hand over part of its state secrets.

Since Libya has ignored the above demands, it now faces selective economic



sanctions from all UN members, including the Arab countries.

The sanctions constitute a form of economic pressure to force the sanctioned state to comply with the resolution. In any case the sanctions against Libya will prove to be no more than symbolic, and at best feeble, since they only apply to air traffic and military sales. The United States and especially its European allies were not in a position to disrupt purchases of Libyan oil because such a measure would hurt the buyer much more than the seller. Hence, we see the hypocrisy, the West is divided on imposing stricter trade measures which may harm its economic performance.

Libyan flexibility

In spite of the full negative implications to her sovereignty, Libya has shown a high degree of flexibility. It has consistently said that it will not object if the two Libyans surrendered themselves to be tried; something that Britain and the United States have refused to accept, which demand that the Libyan government hand over its two citizens.

Libya's counterdemand that it receives guarantees that its two citizens will have a fair trial if extradited is valid. Even Western jurists have warned that the atmosphere in Britain and the United States has been so whipped up by the media that any trial held there would be unfair and prejudicial. This argument becomes more compelling in the light of the outcome of the Los Angeles police brutality case last week.

But one has to question the motives behind the actions of America and Britain. Are they really interested in upholding international law and legitimacy, or do they want to humiliate Libya and to brand her the "pariah" in the international system?

Since these two countries are not prepared to meet Libya half way, accept her proposal and thus maintain international law, we can only reach two principle conclusions. Firstly, that America and Britain are out to "get" Libya, something that they have been wanting to do certainly since 1986 and well before that; secondly, if Qadhafi this time is humiliated, and cut down to size through UN sanctions, then this would be a warning to other Arab countries and to the Third World not to deviate from the path laid down by the Americans.

Double standards

One can not accept the premise that the West's actions against Libya emanated from the need to uphold international law and protect human rights. The records of both the United States and Britain in both areas have been consistently poor. Both countries supported and continue to support governments which have poor human rights records, such as Iran under the Shah,

Israel, Chile under Pinochet, El Salvador, Ecuador and Nicaragua under Somoza among others.

In the area of international law, Western governments have also shown a poor record. Such violations can be documented historically. As early as 1952, the CIA plotted a coup to topple the popularly elected government of Mohammad Mossadeq in Iran and brought back the Shah. In 1956, the tripartite powers of Britain, France and Israel declared war on Egypt in an effort to topple Nasser. Such violations were often repeated in the subsequent decades the first of which was when American troops landed in Cuba in 1962. America continued to topple governments and support military dictatorships of which Chile was the first, when in 1973 the CIA toppled Allende and installed a military junta in his place.

Israel serves as classic study for the breaking of international law. Not only has it illegally occupied the West Bank and Gaza for the last 25 years, but has violated every UN resolution passed on these territories and their inhabitants. Such violations were encouraged by the United States which has consistently vetoed many Security Council resolutions.

Israel continues to occupy Lebanese territory in defiance of UN resolutions, and almost daily violates that country's air space and bombs her camps. One could mention Israel's aggression against Iraq, Tunisia and the downing of a civilian Libyan airliner over Sinai as other examples of Israel's disregard for international laws.

US violations of these very laws include its invasions of Granada and Panama and its 1986 attack on Libya to murder the Libyan leader.

Western aims

With a record as "impressive" as this it becomes very difficult for Western powers to lecture the rest of the world about international law or international morality particularly since half of the world is either suffering from poverty and unjust political grievances, both of which have colonial dimensions and have to be addressed.

As far as the Arab world is concerned, one concludes that the US is using the United Nations and its resolutions to further its hegemony over the Arab world especially after the Gulf War disaster. Having dealt with Iraq, the aim now is to cripple Libya.

America's new world order should be an attempt to establish a world based on mutually and cooperation and to devise ways and conventions based on greater respect for nation states. What seems to be happening is a campaign to threaten and bully into submission countries that are viewed as danger to US interests.

Dr Marwan Asmar is a Jordanian researcher associated with Friends Centre for Research and Design.

Regional ROUND-UP

Washington: The US State Department has praised the way Palestinians negotiated with Israel in the fifth round of the bilateral peace talks concluded in Washington last week. It said Palestinians made specific proposals for self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. A senior US official said Palestinian negotiators put ideas on the table. The official, who briefed reporters on condition his name not be published, declined to say what the Palestinians proposed. He merely said there were discussions of specific sectors of authority to be transferred. Meanwhile, there has been no agreement on a date for the next round of negotiations, scheduled to be held in Rome.

Kabul: Troops loyal to radical Muslim leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar were blamed for a series of rocket attacks on the Afghan capital. Hekmatyar had earlier allowed grain and other desperately needed supplies to reach Kabul from Pakistan. On Monday, reports said fierce fighting erupted between government forces and fundamentalist Muslim fighters entrenched around Kabul. But a representative of Hekmatyar was reported to have begun talks with the Mujahideen government of Sibhatullah Mojaddidi on ways to end the internal strife in Afghanistan. There has been a lot of concern in Kabul that a cycle of violence, kidnapping and assassination might begin in Afghanistan.

Amman: A three-member UN fact-finding mission visited Jordan this week as part of an investigation of Israeli human rights violations and conditions in the occupied Arab territories. Meanwhile, Amnesty International (AI) accused Israel of torturing Arab prisoners in detention centers in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon.

Washington: A senior US State Department official has said it will take about two weeks to see how the Syrian decision to permit Jews to travel abroad is implemented. "We have instructed our embassy in Damascus to look at the follow-up to the decision," the official told reporters in response to reports that Syrian Jews have been permitted to leave. The state of Syria's Jewish community was raised during the opening speech of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir at the inauguration of the Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid last October. Syria's Foreign Minister Mr. Farouq Sharaa responded angrily and said Syria's Jews enjoy the same rights as other Syrians.

Lagos: Nigeria will resume its diplomatic relations with Israel. An agreement on the resumption of diplomatic ties was signed in Lagos by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and his Nigerian counterpart this week. Considering that Nigeria is one of the largest Muslim states in Africa, the resumption of ties with Israel is of an exceptional importance to Tel Aviv.

Tripoli: Arab parliamentarians have called for an urgent Arab summit to work out a common strategy to muster support for Libya in its dispute with the West over the Lockerbie case. The end of the two-day meeting in Tripoli, the Arab parliamentary Union, which comprises deputies from all Arab League countries, called for inter-Arab coordination and unity.

Algiers: Algerians were bracing themselves again for possible escalation in violence a few days after a military tribunal condemned 15 Muslim fundamentalists to death for an attack on a frontier post which killed three policemen. Some clashes took place in different parts of the old section of the capital and a number of deaths and arrests were reported. It is not yet clear if the Algerian ruling council will carry out the death sentences and risk a bloody confrontation with FIS followers.

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By Robert Reinhold

End of the American dream

African Americans go on the rampage in Los Angeles and across the USA as the country wakes up to the terrible specter of social and economic injustices. Result over 50 dead and 2000 injured. The riots are over, but the wounds will take many years to heal.

AMONG THE myriad layers of conflicting images that the City of Los Angeles conjures worldwide, none has been more cherished by its leaders than that of the vibrant fast-growing metropolis, the premiere world model of a harmonious and economically vigorous multi-cultural mix, a place built by optimists who came from other places to make a new life.

Last week that image turned into a different one, the kind of movie produced by the Los Angeles studios. National Guard troops in full battle dress with loaded M-16 rifles stood sentinel in Pershing Square in front of a boarded-up Biltmore Hotel. Korean merchants with Uzzi semi-automatic machine guns paced watchfully on the roofs of their stores, mobs of all races looted and burned not only to the heart of mostly black South Central Los Angeles but also as far away as Koreatown, Hollywood and Beverly Hills.

White residents who had long thought they were remote and safe from the gang-ridden neighborhoods they knew only from television and movies covered in their homes obeying a dusk-to-dawn curfew, bringing out hunting rifles and baseball bats for protection under a menacing pall of smoke that drifted out to the Pacific Ocean. President Bush sent in Federal police and troops. Foreign consulates issued travel warnings to their citizens. By Saturday afternoon, there were 44 dead, more than 1,765 injured — 198 critically, some 3,767 fires in Los Angeles alone, more than 6,345 arrests and property damage in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

It was the worst possible outcome of the series of painful events that began on the night of 3 March 1991, when Los Angeles police officers were videotaped inflicting a prolonged beating on a prone black motorist, and that culminated Wednesday afternoon

when an all white jury in the conservative suburb of Simi Valley stunned the city and nation by acquitting all four officers charged.

The rage, pillaging and terror that followed the verdict brought home to Angelenos a realization that their city, with its superficial sheen of citrus trees, movie-star glitter and with-it restaurants and shops, had become a dangerous urban village where two decades of boom and growth appear to have widened the gap between rich and poor.

Those looting last week were the children of blacks who rioted in Watts in 1965 or recent immigrants from Latin America for whom the Southern California dream has meant something other than pale blue swimming pools and big-fin convertibles. "We are experiencing the ugly reality of what Los Angeles has become," said John A. Arguillas, a former justice of the California Supreme Court who was vice chairman of the independent commission that investigated the police beating. "Everybody saw the videotape of the beating, but now everybody has been watching the reality of Los Angeles. It is a very, very ugly picture."

The events cast a pall of pessimism over the economically stricken Southern California region, already reeling from the combined effects of recession and massive cutbacks in defense spending. Tourism alone, which accounts for 360,000 jobs and generates \$7 billion in economic activity annually, was devastated as hotels found themselves awash in cancellations from Japan and elsewhere. The ripples are expected to widen over the entire state, which has suffered a net loss of 696,000 jobs since the recession



War zone in the city of Angeles

began in 1990 and whose government is struggling to overcome a budget shortfall that could reach \$11 billion this year.

But the reality of the riots was much more complex than rich versus poor. South-Central Los Angeles and other minority communities from which the disorders sprang were badly divided. "There are those who feel a sense of attachment, living next door to people for whom the social contract does not exist, who are aware of how the privileged live," said Richard S. Weinstein, dean of the school of architecture

and urban planning at the University of California in Los Angeles. "There is a point at which the coherence of the community is broken and anything is possible, at which those who have been marginalized act that way."

It was not the first time that the Los Angeles black community had rebelled against the police. In August 1965, years of frustration and resentment erupted into five days of rioting when a white policeman arrested a black man for drunk driving. Those disorders left 34 dead, more than 1,000 injured and a legacy of ill will so

potent that the word Watts remains synonymous with black anger.

Eight years later, in 1973, voters in this predominantly white city elected their first black mayor, a former policeman named Tom Bradley. He was backed by a coalition that included the downtown white business establishment, affluent West Side Jewish voters and the black political leadership — a diverse group united in the conviction that the city's future depended on putting aside its racist past. Mr Bradley won wide admiration as a healer and conciliator, and under him the city truly came of age. Its ports surpassing New York in volume, its downtown office space doubling over the last decade. Its proudest moment came when it flawlessly hosted the 1984 Olympic games.

The peace and harmony were only apparent. Over the last decade, powerful demographic forces began to change the urban complexion. Enormous waves of foreign immigrants arrived and began to push blacks out of Watts. Between the 1980 and 1990 censuses, the black population of Los Angeles County dropped from 13 percent to 11 percent of the population, while both the Hispanic population and the Asian population swelled. One of the most disturbing aspect of the disorders last week was the raw hostility between blacks and Koreans.

Meanwhile, older "Anglo" residents were moving further out, to places like Simi Valley, just over the county line in Ventura County, where Los Angeles seems like a foreign country. Even the remaining Anglos mostly live in the San Fernando Valley, separated from central Los Angeles by a mountain range.

"We've got to come to grips with the fact that LA is segregated," said Dan Garcia, former President of the Police Commission who is now a vice president at Warner Brothers. "The distribu-

Continued on page 17

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Méditerranée

CEE-Jordanie, une coopération bien rôdée

Les liens entre la CEE et la Jordanie ont commencé à se tisser en 1977, avec un accord général. Depuis, ils ne cessent de se consolider

"IL EST évident que l'union de l'Europe a des effets considérables sur l'extérieur", affirme Christian D. Falkowski, ambassadeur de la Communauté européenne en Jordanie. Avec le royaume, des liens solides sont déjà noués: en 1977, la Jordanie et la Communauté européenne ont signé à Bruxelles un accord général pour une durée illimitée. Objectifs de départ: contribuer au développement économique et social de la Jordanie. Ceci est une base de travail qui entérine notamment l'accès au marché européen sans paiement de taxes pour la plupart des produits industriels d'origine jordanienne et privilège l'accès pour ses exportations du secteur agricole.

Quatre protocoles

Cet accord général a généré quatre protocoles. Ils sont financés par le budget de la Communauté européenne et par la Banque Européenne d'Investissement (BEI). Les trois premiers prévoyaient un total de 203 millions d'écus, environ 223,3 millions de dollars, sous forme de prêts et dons, afin de développer les activités de la Jordanie dans les secteurs du commerce, des finances, de la tech-

nique, de l'industrie, de l'agriculture, de la science, de l'énergie et de l'éducation.

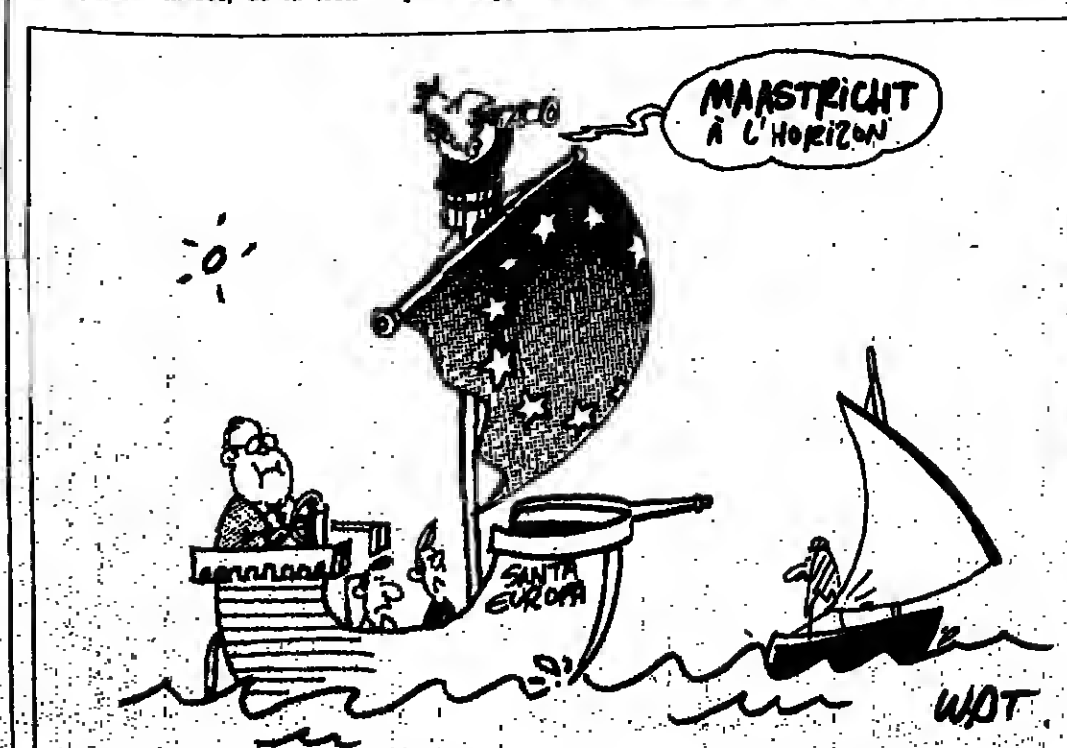
Le premier protocole, signé en 1979 et effectif jusqu'en octobre 1981, allouait à la Jordanie 40 millions d'écus pour financer de nombreux projets. Le deuxième (1981-1986), prévoyait le déblocage de 63 millions d'écus. Le troisième protocole (1987-1991) accordait à la Jordanie pas moins de 100 millions d'écus sous forme de prêts et de dons. Il s'agissait de favoriser les exportations. De promouvoir les investissements dans l'industrie et la création de joint-ventures. Il s'agissait aussi de supporter les petites et moyennes entreprises et par là même de lutter contre le chômage.

Le quatrième protocole est maintenant sur la voie, pour la période 1991-1996. Il prévoit 80 millions d'écus sous forme de prêts accordés par la BEI. Par ailleurs, 46 millions proviennent du budget de la Communauté européenne, dont deux millions en capital risque. Ce quatrième protocole vise en particulier le développement du secteur privé et les questions de l'eau.

Dix millions d'écus du dernier protocole ont déjà été alloués pour supporter le programme

d'ajustement structurel de la Jordanie. Trente autres millions d'écus consacrés à ce programme viennent de la Politique Méditerranéenne Rénovée. Celle-ci a été décidée lors d'un meeting du Conseil de coopération CEE-Jordanie à Bruxelles le 4 novembre 1991. Cette politique renouvée met à la disposition des pays méditerranéens, 4,4 milliards d'écus au total, pour soutenir le développement et pour obtenir une meilleure coopération dans les zones d'intérêt communs entre la communauté et ces pays.

La CEE apporte également son aide dans les domaines sociaux et humanitaires. Par exemple, la commission a contribué pour plus de 107,5 millions d'écus pour les réfugiés et victimes de la guerre du Golfe. En janvier 1991, la commission a décidé une aide à la Jordanie de 150 millions d'écus pour assister l'un des Etats de la "ligne de front" les plus durement touchés par la crise. Les fondations de la coopération entre la CEE et la Jordanie sont maintenant solides. Pour les années à venir, l'Europe a tout intérêt à préparer la stabilité d'une région toute proche. Une telle entreprise passe par des coopérations à long terme, comme celle qui existe déjà avec la Jordanie.



LA JOURNEE DE L'EUROPE

L'Europe fête son 42ème anniversaire. Le 9 mai 1950, en proposant à l'Allemagne et aux autres pays européens de créer une communauté d'intérêts pacifiques, Robert Schuman, ministre des Affaires étrangères français de l'époque accomplit un acte historique. Il tend la main aux adversaires de la veille mais surtout met en route un processus qui aboutira en 1993 à l'ouverture du grand marché entre les douze de la Communauté. En attendant la monnaie unique et peut-être la fédération. A l'occasion de la Journée de l'Europe du 9 mai, "Le Jourdain", section européenne du "Star" vous propose un numéro spécial



L'EDITO

de Robert Reinhold

Euro-arabe

LORS DES négociations périodiques des divers accords de coopération et d'assistance qui lient la Communauté européenne à tous les pays arabes (sauf l'Irak et la Lybie), les préambules de ces protocoles n'ont presque jamais omis de rappeler que ces derniers visent essentiellement à maintenir les cours d'échanges traditionnels entre le vieux continent et ses voisins du sud.

Certes, les relations euro-arabes gérées à Bruxelles ont été un exemple pour leur continuité. Ce qui les a relativement mises à l'abri des soubresauts politiques, sans pour la Syrie à cause d'une affaire de terrorisme, il y a quelques années.

Pour des relations qui pour la plupart, ont été institutionnalisées dans les années 70, le bilan est satisfaisant: l'Europe est le premier partenaire commercial et le premier bailleur de fonds, d'aide financière et alimentaire des pays arabes. Les pourparlers entre Bruxelles et les capitales arabes s'efforcent, non sans difficultés, de faire baisser les barrières en face des produits agricoles et autres en provenance des pays du Maghreb et du Mésopotamie.

L'Europe, consciente des pressions que subissent les pays arabes et du besoin urgent de se garantir des marchés solides, s'attend à davantage d'efforts de la part de leurs partenaires, en vue de réajuster leurs politiques aux réalités nouvelles de l'Europe. Le dialogue euro-arabe peut constituer le cadre propice pour la recherche de solutions, à condition qu'il soit consolidé par de la bonne volonté de part et d'autre.

Les relations euro-arabes se devraient de tourner la page des relations figées dans l'aide et l'assistance frugales et explorer les domaines d'une coopération dans le vrai sens du terme. Les nouveaux accords entre la CEE et les pays de l'AELE ne devraient pas punir les Arabes, mais plutôt les inciter à proposer des "marchés uniques" parmi eux, capables d'attirer les Européens. Les projets de l'UMA au Maghreb et du CCG dans le Golfe arabe ne méritent-ils pas un appui particulier?

Lier les intérêts de sécurité aux intérêts économiques, tel est le thème de l'initiative courageuse de la Conférence sur la sécurité en Méditerranée occidentale, qu'il faudrait concrétiser afin de répondre aux besoins communs d'abandon à des réactions au niveau des aspirations des peuples de la région à la paix et à la sécurité.

La démocratie naissante dans certains pays arabes devrait être encouragée et appuyée, afin que la rive sud de la Méditerranée soit, avec son apport historique, la dimension sud solide de l'Europe et un lien précieux avec le Marché Commun, l'Afrique et l'Asie. Imaginons les rapports qui pourraient en résulter et le poids culturel que cela pourrait constituer...

Interview

Le train de la paix doit arriver en 1993

Quel wagon doit précéder l'autre? Celui de la paix, ou celui de la prospérité? Quel rôle doit jouer la CEE dans la région? Les réponses du directeur des relations extérieures de la Commission de la Communauté européenne, Eberhard Rhein est spécialiste des questions du Proche et du Moyen-Orient

LE JOURDAIN: "Rendre la guerre pas seulement impensable, mais impossible matériellement" disait Robert Schuman. Cette phrase célèbre est-elle applicable à la région? Eberhard Rhein: Je dirais oui, certainement, il faudrait rendre la guerre aussi impraticable que possible. Pour l'Europe, ça signifiait depuis quarante ans, la création d'interdépendances entre ses différentes parties. Ça a commencé par la mise en commun de la sidérurgie et du charbon, ce qui aujourd'hui est quelque chose de dépassé.

Ici, dans cette région, vous pourriez arriver à cela en créant non pas une fédération israélo-palestino-jordanienne dont certains rêvent. Je pense que cela n'est pas possible. On ne devrait même pas penser à ces rêves irréalisables. Mais la chose qui me paraît possible serait quand même d'envisager d'ici quinze ans la mise en place d'une zone de libre échange entre ces trois entités élargie peut-être successivement au Liban, à la Syrie et même à l'Égypte. C'est-à-dire la création d'un marché commun ou d'un espace économique, mais pas dans l'acceptation européenne.

L.J.: Claude Cheysson a déclaré il y a quelques mois à Amman qu'il n'y aurait pas de paix sans prospérité. Mais dans le même temps, certains pays refusent catégoriquement de créer des liens économiques avec d'autres avant la signature d'une paix durable. Comment démêler cet écheveau?

Eberhard Rhein: Premièrement je dirais que cette région a été en guerre pendant quarante ans, et en dépit de cette situation conflictuelle qui a duré, elle a connu un accroissement assez considérable de sa prospérité. Il y a bien sûr, grâce à un apport massif d'aide extérieure, un développement important en Israël. De fait, Israël sera un pays prospère dès qu'il sera capable de consacrer, comme c'est le cas en Europe, 97% de ses ressources à des fins civiles au lieu de 75 aujourd'hui.

Cela s'applique également aux autres parties de la région. Mais la prospérité est quelque chose qui ne tombe pas du ciel. La prospérité d'une société est le résultat d'une volonté pas seulement des gouvernements mais aussi de millions de citoyens. C'est la conséquence d'une volonté d'épargne, d'investissement, de chercher constamment une amélioration de la situation matérielle, de la productivité. C'est une mentalité. Peut-être qu'en Europe, nous en avons trop. Ces jours-ci, dans certaines parties du monde arabe il n'y a pas assez de cette recherche de la prospérité, qui d'ailleurs est à double tranchant. Ce qui, veut dire Claude Cheysson, pas de paix sans prospérité, moi j'aurais plutôt tendance à le renverser et à dire, pas



Eberhard Rhein Photo Denis Deruel-Marande

de prospérité véritable à long terme sans paix. Et la paix, on peut l'obtenir plus rapidement que la prospérité.

L.J.: La Communauté européenne préside une commission à la Conférence de paix qui doit plancher sur les questions économiques. Celle-ci doit se réunir courant mai à Bruxelles. Pourquoi multiplier les aléas de négociations? Eberhard Rhein: Entre Palestiniens et Israéliens, on ne peut pas parler désarmement, on ne peut pas parler de paix, on ne peut pas parler de prospérité. Parce que les réfugiés se trouvent en Jordanie, en Syrie, au Liban et par conséquent, certains sujets dépassent le cadre strictement bilatéral. Les réunions à Bruxelles puis à Tokyo, à Ottawa et à Vienne serviront à trouver de premières orientations sur ce qu'on pourrait appeler avec un grand mot, le futur ordre régional. Notamment dans la partie sécurité, je pense que nous sommes très très loin du compte. L'espèce d'absolument qu'on n'attend pas que la dernière virgule soit mise sur certains sujets, avant de changer la page.

Je pense qu'il est essentiel de mener à bien ces négociations

d'ici fin 1993. En tout cas le premier train des négociations doit arriver pas plus tard que 1993. Le minimum à attendre, c'est une solution intérimaire de trois ou cinq années d'autonomie pour les Territoires à présent occupés. Deux, une solution entre Israël et la Syrie, sur la restitution sous des modalités à définir du Golan, avec en contrepartie la normalisation des relations diplomatiques et politiques. Pour la question des réfugiés, je pense qu'il faut un accord minimum pour régler les questions du droit au retour, du droit à la compensation, de l'intégration dans les différents pays hôtes. Mais je ne pense pas qu'il soit indispensable d'avoir un accord sur la distribution des eaux du Jourdain d'ici à 93. De même pour un accord, je rêve, sur la dénucléarisation de la zone, pour un accord de limitation des missiles ou des armements. Ça à mon avis, c'est trop compliqué.

L'essentiel, c'est que les parties s'entendent sur un "co-programme" de paix. Elles doivent se fixer un certain échéancier. Cela reste aussi la responsabilité de la communauté internationale.

L.J.: L'aide européenne à la

gion devrait tripler entre 1992 et 1996. Dans quels domaines devra-t-elle s'appliquer en priorité? Quels seront les montants?

Eberhard Rhein: Les montants pour toute la région de la Méditerranée, c'est-à-dire du Maroc jusqu'à la Syrie, Jordanie incluse vont être pour la période 92, d'environ quatre milliards et demi d'Ecus, sous forme de prêts ou de dons. Ça c'est le minimum. L'utilisation de ces fonds, cela ne dépend pas de nous. Mais une grande partie va certainement être consacrée à l'amélioration de l'environnement: stations d'épuration d'eau surtout.

Deux, une grande partie devrait être consacrée à la coopération régionale, à l'amélioration des infrastructures entre les pays méditerranéens et l'Europe. Il restera toujours une partie importante pour la création d'emplois.

Pour la Jordanie, on va bientôt, j'espère avant l'été, décider un programme assez important, exceptionnel, extraordinaire en partie, pour aider le royaume à résoudre ses problèmes d'ajustement structurel.

Nous encourageons tout ce qui est investissement privé. Il est nettement insuffisant dans la

Mashrek par rapport au Maghreb. Au moins au Maroc, il y a 200 millions de dollars d'investissements privés, et je suppose que ça monte... Ici dans ce pays, qui représente bien sûr un dixième de la population du Maroc, les investissements privés, ne dépassent certainement pas les 20 millions.

Par ailleurs, nous allons lancer un programme pour aider les pays qui le voudraient à limiter la croissance démographique. C'est important et sans précédent.

L.J.: La démographie, s'atteler aux problèmes de la population est, selon vous, la clé de beaucoup de problèmes actuels? Lesquels?

Eberhard Rhein: C'est très simple, chaque être humain supplémentaire qui peuple ce monde a besoin de céréales, d'eau, de pétrole, d'écoles, d'hôpitaux, de routes. Faire face en même temps à la nécessité d'accroître la prospérité des trois millions et demi de Jordaniens qui sont là aujourd'hui, et couvrir les besoins de 120.000 Jordaniens supplémentaires tous les ans, est une épreuve redoutable pour n'importe quelle société, américaine, anglaise, mais surtout pour une société relativement pauvre.

Le deuxième problème: il se peut, et on voit ça de plus en plus dans certaines régions comme le Sahel, que les populations dépassent les ressources agricoles, hydrologiques disponibles. Il est impossible à résoudre, sauf si les Israéliens aident les Jordaniens à provoquer des pluies artificielles. Sauf si la Jordanie produit de l'eau dessalée par l'énergie, ce qui coûte très cher: plus de 1,60\$ le mètre cube. S'il y a plus de gens que de ressources disponibles, vous altérez l'environnement. En Jordanie, vous avez des problèmes que l'on ne connaît pas il y a trente ans. Vous ne pouvez plus aller boire l'eau des rivières, parce qu'elles sont polluées.

Lorsque vous avez une concentration de population comme à Gaza, où vivent 3000 personnes par km², sans ressources, car ce n'est que du désert, vous pompez trop d'eau. Plus que l'eau qui se régénère par la pluie. Les Lybiens et les Saoudiens font la même chose... Toute l'humanité fait la même chose pour le pétrole. On fait comme si des ressources limitées étaient illimitées.

Le problème démographique, c'est un problème à très long terme. Je laisse de côté le Golfe qui peut se permettre d'avoir une croissance presque illimitée (je peux tolérer 5%). Mais si vous regardez le monde arabe vous avez deux régions très différentes. Vous avez le Maghreb où le taux annuel de croissance démographique est entre 2% et 3%

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Interview d'Eberhard Rhein

Suite de la page 12

niste et 2,7% au Maroc. Même taux en Égypte, ce qui fait quand même 1,2 millions d'Égyptiens de plus chaque année. Ici en Syrie, dans les T.O. et en Jordanie, vous êtes plus prêts de 4%. C'est énorme! Je ne voudrais pas voir un pays aussi beau, avec ses grandes plaines et ses collines, couvert de bâtiments et peut-être même de taudis, et avec une population de 13 ou 14 millions. Par conséquent, plus tôt on s'attaque à ce problème, mieux ça vaudra pour les générations futures.

L.J.: On reproche beaucoup aux Américains de vouloir créer un "nouvel ordre mondial". La Communauté européenne n'est-elle pas en train de créer un "nouvel ordre régional"?

Eberhard Rhein: Premièrement je trouve que c'est une discussion sur des slogans... Je ne vois pas ce que les Américains font pour créer ce "nouvel ordre mondial". Il n'appartient pas aux Américains, ni aux Européens, ni aux Japonais ni à d'autres puissances soi-disant dominantes d'imposer leurs volontés sur le reste du monde. Ces temps là sont révolus. Ceci dit, je vois modestement un nouvel ordre économique qui se crée par la force des choses. Dans la mesure où vous êtes en train de créer un grand ensemble économique en Europe, dans la mesure où nous discutons aujourd'hui d'une communauté européenne à 25 ou à 30 États-membres, bien sûr cela force les voisins autour et surtout les pays arabes à redéfinir leurs rapports avec cette nouvelle Europe... Au fond nous poussons les pays arabes à se réunir et à former un contre-poids le plus rapidement possible.

L.J.: Nous avons beaucoup parlé d'économie. La coopération ne doit-elle pas aussi comporter un gros volet culturel? Eberhard Rhein: Je vois là surtout des lacunes grandissantes, d'incompréhension, de méfiance entre l'Europe et le monde de l'Islam. Surtout d'incompréhension devant le fondamentalisme et l'intégrisme comme on dit en France.

Je ne vois pas assez d'Européens apprendre l'Arabe. Je vois ne voir pas assez d'éléments de la culture arabe qui influent sur le comportement européen. Je vois comme un élément plutôt négatif la cohabitation qui ne fonctionne pas très bien avec les populations musulmanes ou arabes en Europe. Je considère comme dangereux ou regrettable un développement de la xénophobie.

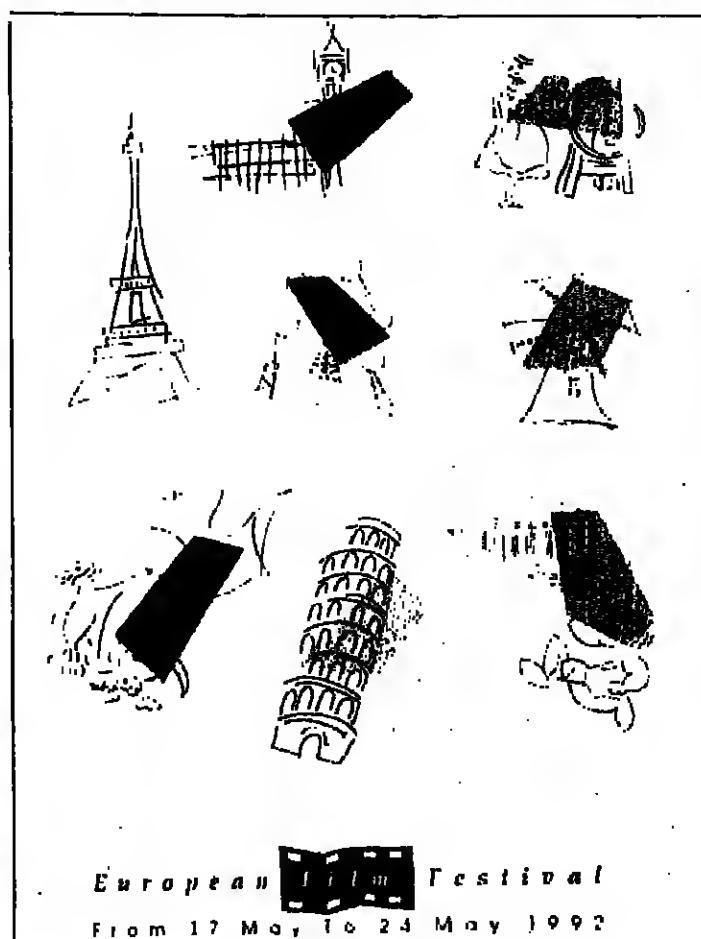
Mais je vois comme élément optimiste quand même, une prise de conscience croissante des deux côtés pour aller dans le bon sens. Je parle également de culture politique: on voit certaines évolutions positives. On voit certains mouvements de réforme vers un respect des droits de l'homme, vers des formes de gouvernements démocratiques. Ce sont des évolutions, auxquelles personne au monde ne peut plus échapper.

Projet recueilli par Francis Mazoyer

Festival de cinéma

L'Europe à l'affiche

Huit films de la Communauté des douze sélectionnés pour la semaine du cinéma européen, du 17 au 24 mai au Centre Culturel Royal. Quand l'union fait l'image



Affiche du festival Design de Cathy Hanna

payé "spectateur". Une préférence est accordée aux films récents. Le premier film présenté est celui de la Grande-Bretagne, actuellement à la présidence de la Communauté. Le 17 mai, "Henry V", est à l'affiche. Cette adaptation de l'œuvre de Shakespeare retrace les tumultueuses relations entre l'Angleterre et la France au XV^e siècle. Une reconstitution historique grandiose

qui devrait plaire aux amateurs du genre. Le 18, la Belgique propose un film en Anglais intitulé "Home Makers" interprété entre autres par Annie Duperey et Bernard Giraudeau. Un policier dans la lignée des histoires d'Agatha Christie, où l'héroïne, une femme-flic, enquête auprès de ses voisins tous soupçonnés d'avoir commis une série de crimes dans un étrange immeuble de Bruxelles. Suspense ga-

ranti. Le 19 mai, l'Allemagne présente "Der Bruch". Avec en arrière-plan la reconstruction de Berlin après la deuxième guerre mondiale. Ce film poétique retrace l'histoire véritable d'une bande de gangsters qui veut s'emparer des recettes des Chemins de Fer allemands. Le 20 mai, place à un film grec, "To Rembetiko". La vie mouvementée d'une jeune femme grecque issue d'une famille immigrée avec en toile de fond la redécouverte de la musique folk des années 50 en Grèce.

Entrée gratuite

Le 21 mai, l'Espagne présentera un film intitulé "El Cabezota". L'histoire d'un petit Espagnol pris entre son père et l'institutrice du village aux premiers temps de l'école obligatoire. Le 22 mai, c'est le tour de la France avec son film de Jacques Doillon "Le Petit Criminel" (voir encadré). Le 23 mai, l'un des événements majeurs du cinéma italien de l'année 1990 est à l'honneur: "Lo Zio Indegno". Une relation d'amour et de haine entre un oncle et son neveu, avec la présence du grand Vittorio Gassman. Le film hollandais "Elino Vere" fera le Festival du Film Européen le 24 mai. La vie très agitée d'une jeune femme qui se résume en un seul mot: illusion.

Le Festival du Film Européen 1992, quatrième du nom en Jordanie, aura lieu cette année au Centre Culturel Royal tous les soirs à 20h. L'entrée est gratuite. Il suffit de se rendre la veille au RCC pour réserver sa place. Attention! Il n'y en aura pas pour tout le monde!

Michèle Rieux

Le film français 'Petit criminel' malgré lui

Le film de Jacques Doillon a obtenu le prix Louis-Delluc en 1990. Il sera à l'affiche du Festival du Film européen, le 22 mai



Le petit criminel et le flic

grave que de braquer un pharmacien et de menacer un policier avec une arme. Il y a le mensonge terrible des parents, leur lâcheté et toutes ces années à rattrapper. Ils ne sont plus seuls. Ils sont frère et sœur, un frère forcé de cette reconquête et se moquent éperdument de ce qui les attend au bout de la route. Le flic est là, pris en tenaille entre les deux. Il entre parfois dans leur jeu et oublie son costume de flic pour devenir le grand frère.

Le personnage du petit criminel inspire de vérité. C'est un garçon qui cherche à se faire d'amour

Rien d'autre. Mais il se heurte à un environnement défavorable. A une nouvelle situation de crise. Ici, le cadre sociologique est évacué au profit des sentiments. Après la vengeance d'une femme, plongée dans le désespoir le plus noir, Doillon nous entraîne dans une histoire plus aimable. Ce film superbe a obtenu le prix Louis-Delluc en 1990. Il est une fenêtre sur nos propres douleurs, notre incapacité parfois à vivre simplement.

F.M.



Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

Her Majesty Queen Noor will patronize the French Week on Saturday 9 May at the Jordan InterContinental Hotel.

The week will begin with a gala dinner during which French models will display the latest "prêt-à-porter" clothes designed by famous French designers like Courrèges, Louis Feraud, Guy Laroche and Kenzo. A special French chef will be offering a list of French dishes every night accompanied by jazz music by pianist Philippe Carment. There will also be an exhibition of photos of Jordan taken by Bernard Guillot and Jean-Philippe Reverdot. The activities concerned are organized by the French Cultural Center, Air France and a number of well known French companies like "Le Printemps".

HRH Princess Basma Tuesday paid a visit to the villages of South Shuna to check the workshops of the Voluntary Week, which started Monday and was organized by the Queen Alia Fund for social voluntary work (QAF). The villages that benefit from this program include Al Rama, Al Sweima, Al Joufeh, Al Kafrein, Hal Al Jawasreh and Al Ajajreh.

Two hundred participants from the different faculties of the University of Jordan, including instructors and students, will be available to offer work and consultation daily to the people of those villages.

Princess Basma expressed her satisfaction and appreciation of the outcome of this voluntary work and hoped villagers will be able to benefit fully from such a program. She also stressed the need for concentrating on small agricultural projects such as the cultivation of one's own backyard or front lawn for planting vegetables needed at home.

The Jordan InterContinental Hotel completed Tuesday a Workshop for sales managers and assistant managers of the company's hotels in the Middle East and the Gulf. Mike Higgins, sales consultant for MHA in London, supervised the workshop. At the end of the conference, the hotel organized a tourist program for the participants.

The Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians' Association (MAP) will be conducting a fund raising walk on Friday 8 May. The walk will start from Al Hussein Sports City at 8:30 am, and will finish at Al Jubelha fun fair. Proceeds will go towards helping Palestinian families in the occupied territories.

The President of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), Mrs Im'ara Al Mufri, the US Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Roger G. Harrison and the Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Amman, Mr. William T. Oliver, signed a grant agreement at NHF on 29 April. The grant, which



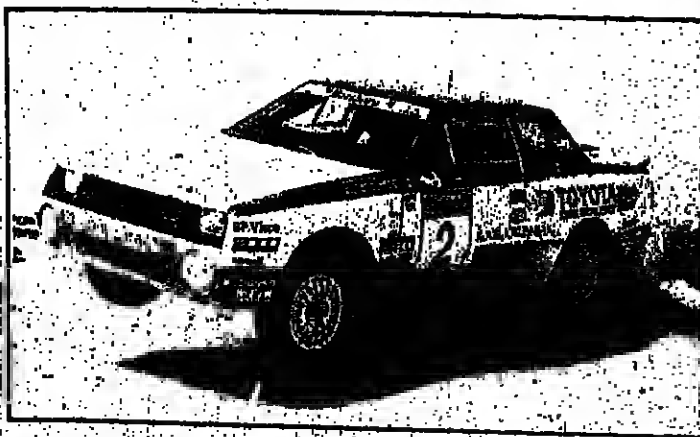
Deputizing for the Minister of Culture Dr Mahmoud Al Samra, Mr Mohammad Najil Al Amayreh, secretary general of the Ministry of Culture, opened Tuesday the sculpture-work exhibition of Iraqi artists Jalal Al Zuhairi and Amalid Al Hzbah, at Baladna Art Gallery. The exhibition, running for a week, has on display bronze sculptures by Jalal and murals of various materials by Amalid. Such exhibitions represent a new experience for the Jordanian audience, regarding both the materials used and the subject matter presented.



A group of children from the American school in Amman visited the Jordan InterContinental Hotel on Tuesday to get acquainted with the services offered by the hotel. Ms Lucie Aslo, public relations manager, received the children and guided them on a tour of the different sections of the hotel. At the end of the visit, a tea party was held and souvenirs were distributed to the children.

was endorsed by the Ministry of Planning, provides \$375,000 from the USAID sponsored Private Enterprise Technical Resources Assistance Project (PETRA) to promote the Foundation's National Handicraft Development Project (NHDP).

The funds will be used to support the activities of the Jordan Trade and Design Center (JDTDC), a key component of the (NHDP), which offers training and marketing assistance to all interested Jordanian producers of handicrafts.



The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan, organizer of the Middle East Rally Championship to be held on Thursday and Friday 21 and 22 May, released a partial list of participants. It includes Abbas Al Mousawi from Qatar who will be driving his Toyota Celica GT4, 4-wheel drive. Two cars from Czechoslovakia (Lancia Delta Integral and Skoda) will also participate. From Lebanon, Maurice Sahnawi will be driving his Ford Sierra, 4-wheel drive. Four Cypriot drivers have confirmed their participation in what promises to be a tough race indeed.

SOS village is inaugurated in Aqaba

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

LAST THURSDAY, Aqaba witnessed the inauguration of its first SOS village. This village is part of a development project which started to operate in the summer of 1991. Jordan already boasts two such villages, which function as homes for abandoned and parentless children. The SOS philosophy is to rear a child in as close an environment to a normal home situation as possible.

After carrying out detailed studies of the southern region of the kingdom, it was found that this area would benefit greatly from such a project. SOS National Director, Lina Khopit, said, "Studies were first undertaken there so as to see how great the need was for such an organization. The services of the Aqaba SOS are to be extended to the southern parts of the kingdom."

She said that 16 children are currently being taken care of by four mothers and two aunts. These terms are used naturally by the children, as they share a mother and child relationship with these figures. The aunts are ladies who act as substitute mothers while they are away on leave. A village director and members of staff are also part of a typical SOS "home." Khopit said that these children come to think of the village as "their village, they call the mothers 'mama', and feel that the whole village is theirs."

"These mothers, similar to real mothers, live in the village and come to think of the parentless children as their own and as the house they live in as their house," she added.

On reaching puberty, the boys and girls are moved to separate

youth houses. Plans are under way for a boy's youth house to be built by the end of the year. Ideally, it should be situated outside the village and near the city where it is hoped boys will learn to become independent under SOS guidance.

According to the director, for a child to join he or she must have a certain degree of maturity, and respond positively to the idea of moving to a new place to live. However, she disclosed that it is mostly teenagers that are brought in, through the Ministry of Social Development.

Construction for the Aqaba SOS village was funded by the Hermann Gmeiner Fund (Gmeiner is the founder of SOS), and a grant from the Industrial Development Bank in Jordan. Running costs are met by private donations and sponsorship, in other words, a child can be sponsored at the cost of JD 60 annually and a family house at JD 500 annually.

The SOS has income-generating projects which include a bakery, supermarket, kindergarten in Sahab, and a vocational training center in Amman. In Aqaba the supermarket was scheduled to function with the official opening.

A sports center open to both village members and the public is expected to open its doors in mid-summer. All these ventures are triggered towards serving the public as well as orphaned children, and the aim is to integrate these children into the community through these projects. Ms Khopit said: "Like any other child in this country, these children should have friends from the society."

Agenda

Films

At the Goethe Institute Amman, the video film "Winnetou und Shatterhand - Im Tal der Toten" will be shown on Saturday 9 May at 7 pm.

At the British Council, the



The Amman Plaza Hotel's General Manager, Mr. Louis Caviezzi, is leaving with his wife Mimi to open a new Fortis Grand Hotel in Malta.

His successor is Charles Barker, previously general manager at the Muscat International Hotel in Oman. He is joined by his wife Anita and two children.

video film "The Teller of Gloucester" will be shown on Saturday 9 May at 5 pm.

Exhibition

At the British Council, the "Around the World: People and Things" exhibition of the photographs of Jacqueline Vandervelde will be open to the public until Monday 11 May.

At the University of Science and Technology, in cooperation with the Goethe Institute Amman, there will be an exhibition depicting the chain of social and economical developments during the period spanning the end of the 19th century until the mid-Twenties.

The exhibition will commence on Saturday 9 May and will run until 13 May.

At Baladna Art Gallery, an exhibition entitled "A Salute to Palestine" will be opened today 7 May, at 5 pm. The exhibition is dedicated to Land Day and the Intifada. The exhibition, depicting scenes from the struggle and daily life of the Palestinians, will run until 23 May.

At Alla Art Gallery, the oil paintings exhibition of the Iraqi artist Amer Al Obaidi will be open to public until Tuesday 12 May. Visitors are welcome daily from 10 am to 1:30 pm and from 4-7 pm.

Museums in the Islamic world — the crunch is now

By HRH Princess Wijdan Ali

The drastic cutbacks in development budgets of the oil-rich countries in the Middle East have been reflected in some cases in reduced provisions for the arts. Already these allocations were meagre; recent changes have driven museum curators in some countries to despair. Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts in Amman, laments the plight of art institutions in the Middle East in this article based on her recent address to a London seminar on Museums in the Islamic World.



HRH Princess Wijdan Ali

LONDON — MUSEUMS in the Islamic world are in crisis due to the multiple effects of neglect, lack of funding and lack of expertise. The problem is so severe that unless immediate help is offered, some museums and galleries in the region may actually have to close down.

The concept of uprooting precious objects from their home of centuries and putting them behind glass in a museum is quintessential. But collecting them at least has helped to preserve artefacts that would otherwise have been lost to vandals or the natural elements.

The museums in the Islamic world, from the best known ones in Baghdad, Cairo, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Lahore, Tunis, Bahrain, Amman, Beirut and Damascus to lesser institutions elsewhere, are all facing problems of one kind or other. The art galleries that mainly house collections of paintings, sculpture and ceramics by national artists, are doing only marginally better.

Aside from the difficulties, what is common to most antiquities museums in the Islamic world is the richness of their collections. Since the dawn of history numerous civilizations have sprouted in the Islamic world, leaving their imprints not only on local inhabitants but also on the rest of the world. The history of the civilized world was first written in the Nile Valley, the Indus Valley, Mesopotamia and the Holy Land. Consequently, all those civilizations and more left behind tangible testimonials of their achievements, mainly in the form of monuments, artefacts and scrolls which are mostly housed in the mu-

seums of their respective countries.

Another thing common to most such museums is that they are having to cope with a continuous discovery of new finds. For example in a small country like Jordan, at present there are 21 sites under excavation. Each site yields numerous objects that need to be registered, studied, documented and stored. All these steps need manpower, money and space.

All museums housing antiquities are run by governments; all governments in the developing world are slow in making progress; all progress in almost all Third World countries is weighed down by a lack of government allocated funds, bureaucracy and confused and shifting priorities. These factors have led to a state of deterioration in national collections. I have visited museums where both archaeological and art collections were literally displayed amidst garbage.

The total lack of involvement and interest on the part of the private sector in the growth of museums has been another setback. Most tax laws in the developing world do not encourage private donors to participate in patronizing cultural projects and institutions.

The picture is not much brighter in the art galleries. Almost all of the galleries are run by the state and the physical environ-

ment of most of them is less than satisfactory — for example, instead of having temperature regulators, rising damp, humidity and abrasive neon lights conspire to destroy the paper and canvas of the art works. Naturally, these problems vary in intensity from one museum to another.

Throughout my extensive travels in the Islamic world during the past 15 years, only two exceptions can be cited to what appears to be a general rule.

The first of these is the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Art in Amman, founded in 1980, which has a unique and extensive collection of contemporary paintings, sculptures and ceramics from the Islamic world. It was founded and is managed by a non-profit private institution, The Royal Society of Fine Arts.

But the gallery is facing a financial crisis. Since the beginning of 1991 donations have been reduced to a trickle. The burden Jordan had to shoulder due to the Gulf War — feeding, sheltering and giving medical and other services to over one million evacuees (equivalent of one third of Jordan's population), in addition to coping with over 250,000 expatriates — has forced most of the gallery's patrons to cease their patronage. How does it manage? Its bank manager has given part of the donation and a credit account, with interest of course. For how long can it continue? Only God knows.

The second example is Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyya which opened in Kuwait in 1983. Until it was looted and destroyed during the Gulf War it was home for the private Al Sabah collection of Islamic art and it is now under restoration.

In spite of the difference between the nature of the two

collections and disparity in their budgets, both museums have been well kept, efficiently managed and have followed advanced methods of computerization for their documents.

Collections in both museums have constantly grown. The Jordan National Gallery opened 11 years ago with 60 works from 16 Islamic countries in its permanent collection; today it owns 1,030 works from 42 countries, as well as a small collection of Orientalist paintings. The collection in Kuwait comprised 7,000 pieces accrued with great care and expense over the past 15 years or so.

Both museums are privately run and their funds are mostly provided by the private sector and both are engaged in local community activities with educational programs for adults and children, as well as participation in international exhibitions, seminars and meetings.

This, however, contrasts with the unhappy state of Iraq's own museums, damaged or ransacked in the Gulf War, and the poor state of museums elsewhere.

It is easy to criticize our governments for not adding new wings to our museums or restoring national monuments, and condemn my people for not giving enough of their time and money for art and culture. But would I be as comfortable if I were in Khartoum, where they have a fabulous collection of Coptic art as well as a bloody civil war in the south that has been going on for almost half a century? Or in Baghdad, where cholera and typhoid is rife, while its hospitals close down for lack of medicine and equipment?

Or in Kuwait, where pollution from the oil wells set alight during the war endangers the lives of the elderly and the very young?

Or in Gaza and the West Bank, where a whole nation virtually lives under a permanent curfew, stripped of its dignity?

Or in Beirut, where for 17 years and in the name of Ood and religion, people have been kidnapped, raped and butchered without knowing why? Or in Calcutta, where whole families live among the dead in graveyards for lack of housing?

Or in Kabul, where so-called pediatric wards are filled with scores of demented children who have lost their minds after seeing

their entire families blown to pieces? Or in Dacca, Amman, Tehran, Karachi, Tripoli, Aleppo — the list is endless.

I myself, among many, have always been apolitical and believed in art and culture coming right after religion, as food for the soul. Not any more. Like thousands of others in my part of the world and, in spite of ourselves, politics and war, with all the ugliness, immorality and cruelty they embody, have been forced down our throats, obliterating any cultural priority in our lives.

Through unforeseen, uncontrollable and cruel political and military events, two of the most successful museums in the Islamic world may come to an end. More than one national collection may be uprooted and dispersed, while the wheels of progress in an area spreading over two continents are reversed for at least half a century.

As long as our people do not have control over their fate and wealth they will never enjoy progress or live to boast of great accomplishments, be it in art or any other field. When Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, Cordova, Herat, Delhi, Isfahan and Istanbul, amongst others, were centers of knowledge and cultural enlightenment, people held their heads high and knew exactly who they were and what they wanted.

For almost a century now the West seems to have had all the right answers for us. But I have a question for you which is essential in the preservation of all our national treasures, including museums' contents, one that almost all our artists, scientists and intellectuals are asking in the Islamic world today and in the era of neo-colonialism in which we are living: Which should come first — saving an irreplaceable work of art or the life of a human being? For us, this dilemma has certainly hindered and will continue to hinder all cultural progress.

I put this question believing that an international body of scholars such as those interested in the museums of the Islamic world can start the ball rolling to safeguard a wealth of cultural heritage, as the cities of Venice and Fez or the Temple of Abu Simbel were saved, and prevent politicians and the military from destroying expressions of civilizations which belong to the whole world. How such a feat can be achieved is entirely up to you.

Academic File

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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
9-15
May

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers.
9:00 — Encounter.
9:30 — Varieties.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Freesh Film. "The Split" Starring Jim Brown: Mac, a smart and a professional thief, decides, along with his gang, to steal the proceeds of a sports game. They almost succeeded if it wasn't for one mistake.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Wings: Joe is tense because a journalist is on his way to interview him and ask questions on his life and career as a pilot.
9:10 — Action Odyssey: A documentary program about Eric, a Norwegian traveller, who sails with his family to the North Pole and the northern islands in search of the Polar Bear.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Law and Order. "The Torrents of Greed": The prosecution of a mafia hit-man reveals corruption in the city.

MONDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest: Nurse Lorraine studies Japanese because she is in the process of divorcing her husband.
9:10 — Capital City: Hilary, the new dealer at Shana dealers, exerts a special effort to save an important deal.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Gold. "Bye Chris Hampton": Two gold thieves and a police sergeant attempt an assault on Johnny.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Princesses.
9:10 — Rich Tea and Sympathy: Julia and George continue their relationship, and so do her mother and his father, her daughter and his son.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Oscar Films. "Over the Moon" Starring Rex Harrison: Is there more to life than just having money.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved by the Bell: The teacher expels Zack from class.
9:10 — UEFA Cup Final: second leg. Ajax vs Torino.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — The other side of paradise: Dr Chris saves Alicia from the Japanese.

THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons: Homer

Simpson and his friends have a stupid argument over a little boy who sells his personal belongings just to buy a magazine.
9:10 — UEFA Cup Final winners.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of the Week. "White Lie" Starring Gregory Hines and Annette O'Toole: A black journalist from New York returns to Louisiana after 30 years to find the truth about his father who was hanged after being accused of raping a white woman.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Coach. "Don't get mad, get Cooly": Hayden and Luther have an argument about cars, their make and engines; Christine tries to participate when Hayden stops her, claiming this is man's



Sibs, on Friday at 11:10

TUESDAY

talk and women have no place in it.
9:10 — E.N.G. "Running with the pack": Dan disobeys orders to cover the proceedings of an important trial.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Devices and Desires: The police work hard to discover the reasons behind Caroline's mysterious death at sea. Mrs. Denson, on the other hand, hides the killer for personal reasons.
11:10 — Sibs: Desperate to go to a charity ball to see Frank Sinatra, Warren begs for, and finally gets, two tickets from Nora. Warren's date is Nora's sister, Audie, who is a married woman.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:23 — Les dessous des cartes. This episode is about the Bos-

nia-Herzegovina in Yugoslavia.
6:30 — La famille Fontaine. "Mes vrais parents": Anne-Sophie believes that her parents are not her real parents.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Magazine E-M6. A documentary program.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Vaillant. "Hanna et le gang". A cartoon series for children.
5:45 — Des chiffres et des lettres. A program about the completion of numbers and letters.
6:10 — L'Ecole des fans. A program where children sing the songs of their favourite singers. Tonight's guest is Yvette Homer.
7:00 — News in French.
7:00 — Carnet de notes. A program on classical music.

LUNDI

6:00 — Les jeu des animaux. The program is about the composing of names for animals.
6:10 — Le monde sous-marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau. A documentary program about the marine life. "La tragédie des Saumons Rouges".
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Le client: the story is about a woman who has an antique shop.
6:08 — Les tortues Ninja. "L'anniversaire de Michelange". A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie. A series about two doctors.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le monde est à vous. The guest is Patrick Sébastien. A variety and a cultural program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Intertropique. The agriculture magazine on Africa.

JEUDI

6:00 — Sanctuaires sauvages. A documentary program.
6:30 — Maguy. A series about Maguy and her husband.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Le cirque du soleil. International circus.

VENREDI

5:30 — La maison dans la dune. A detective film that takes place in 1935, on the French-Belgian border.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — "Carré vert. La casquette sur le fil de l'eau". A documentary program.

JEANE DIXON'S

Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): A family problem could interfere with progress at work. Try to resolve things quickly and get on with the job at hand. Avoid borrowing or lending money. Read agreements carefully before signing.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Watch your step financially a practical approach is essential. Relatives will assist, but strings are attached. Permit someone close to you to take more initiative. A platonic relationship deepens.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): A good time for journeys, education and long-range planning. Make an intelligent concession in someone you love. The key is to be sensitive to others' needs. Resist an urge to gamble.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): Show more affection to your loved ones. You have energy, initiative and stamina. Make your presence felt! An authority figure will be impressed. Use moderation around food and drink.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Sort out fact from fiction. An unbiased opinion will shed new light on a personal dilemma. Short trips are useful to increase profits. Romance is featured later this week. Plan a glamorous outing.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Take care of bookkeeping chores and pay the bills. A relative or neighbor confides a problem. Avoid making judgements, but exchange ideas. Distant places beckon. Travel is not the cure for your restlessness.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): A burst of creativity could produce immediate profits. Exploration in uncharted areas is indicated. Be specific when describing your plans to higher-ups. Impart your own personal style.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): You may have too many irons in the fire. See what you can do to get better organized. Friendship and money may mix; use caution. What you want is available; reach for it!

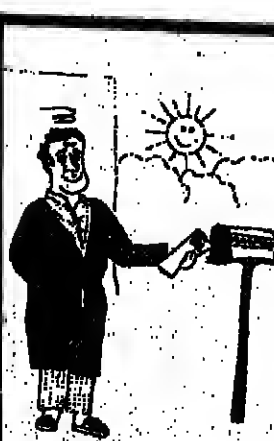
SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Avoid rushing. Practical matters take precedence over strictly fun pursuits. Consult someone who recently confided in you. A favor could be repaid. Relax at home this evening.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Adopt a conservative approach in handling finances. Keep your savings in the bank. Follow the orders of disciplined people. A personal relationship will improve if you employ more tact.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Tend to my health problems. Good nutrition is vital. Your relatives are willing to assist with big jobs. Take them up on their offer. Teamwork accomplishes great things!

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Past efforts bring new rewards. A member of the opposite sex with romantic notions may also have extravagant tastes. Be honest about your financial situation. See people as they really are.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are capable of doing many things at the same time and thrive on variety. There always seems to be plenty of hustle and bustle around these lively youngsters. The world of communications holds strong appeal and could lead to a career in broadcasting. Give these youngsters as much freedom as possible. If they feel hemmed in, they will kick over the traces. Books and crossword puzzles are wonderful gifts for these curious children. They want to find out how things work and share their discoveries with others.



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End of the American dream

Continued from page 10

tion of power is uneven. We've got to figure out a new mechanism to talk to one another. In the San Fernando Valley the notion of the job of the police department is to protect the property and wealth of white people."

This is a city with neighborhoods that are very distant," said Michael Woo, the city councilman who represents Hollywood, which was heavily burned and looted. "Below the cosmopolitan sheen on the surface, there is a lot of racial tension. It does not take much to lift the lid on the rules the city depends on. This is a city built by the dreams of optimists who left other places to make a better life. This is still a dream. My worst fear is that the middle class leaves and ethnic groups are pitted against each other."

On Saturday, Craig Sasser, second vice president of the Los Angeles National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said profound change is possible only if black people look primarily to themselves. "We can't depend on white people to rebuild the community or wait for some handout from the government or the Los Angeles business association to make things right," he said in a telephone interview from his office in the South-Central section of the city.

Mr Sasser said he and a growing number of blacks are advocating that working blacks begin to pool their money to set up a fund to spur the return of businesses to the hardest hit areas of the city. Long before the unrest, he said, white-controlled banks demonstrated that they will not support blacks. "The question now is how Los Angeles will respond to rebuilding. Many say the city needs more vigorous leadership than can be provided by the 74-years-old Mayor, whose office is so weak that he has not been able to remove Police Chief Daryl F. Gates, or by the rudeness, parochial 15-member City Council."

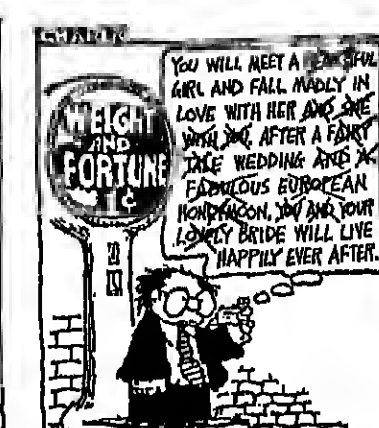
"This is the alarm bell that if we did not respond in 1965, we certainly would be blind if we do not respond now," said Warren Christopher, the lawyer who headed the independent inquiry into the police beating. With all our wealth and success we'd better take this second chance."

And as the events and their implications deepened, and disorder spread to San Francisco, Atlanta, New York and other cities, it was sobering to know that all this was not something confined to Los Angeles, or something that could easily be solved by local leadership. "We are the future," said Dean Weinstein. "What is happening to us here is already happening to other major cities. It is hard to imagine how these kinds of questions can be addressed without Federal attention. It means a whole reordering of domestic priorities."

New York Times



"Go right in, sir. I'll be right with you. You know something, Svenson, your gonna say 'quick, quick, quick' once too often!"



Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RANOB

TAABE

ZARWID

YINTTE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print surprise answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print surprise answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print surprise answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

TOP POP SINGLES

1. Tears In Heaven, Eric Clapton, Reprise
2. Save the Best for Last, Vanessa Williams, Warner
3. Remember the Time, Michael Jackson, Epic
4. To Be With You, Mr. Big, Atlantic
5. I Love Your Smile, Shaane, Motown
6. I'm Too Sexy, Right Said Fred, Charisma
7. I Can't Dance, Genesis, Atlantic
8. Good for Me, Amy Grant, A&M
9. Masterpiece, Atlantic Starr, Reprise
10. Breakin' My Heart, Mint Condition, Perspective

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Thelma & Louise, Susan Sarandon, Geena Davis, MCA/UA Home Video (R-1991)
2. Raggedy Henry, Harrison Ford, Annette Bening, Paramount Home Video (PG-13-1991)
3. Point Break, Patrick Swayze, Keanu Reeves, FoxVideo (R-1991)
4. Harley Davidson and the Marlboro Man, Mickey Rourke and Don Johnson, MGM/UA Home Video (R-1991)
5. Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead, Christine Applegate, Joanna Cassidy, HBO Video (PG-13-1991)
6. Molokai, Christian Slater, Patrick Dempsey, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)

TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

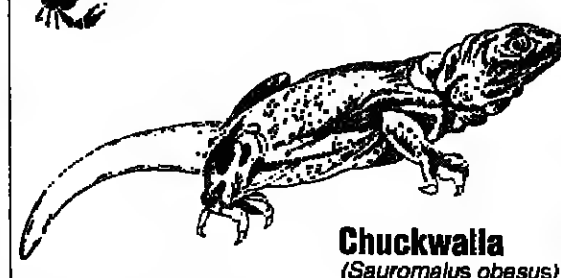
1. Ropin' the Wind, Garth Brooks, Capitol
2. No Fences, Garth Brooks, Capitol
3. Maverick, Hank Williams Jr., Curt
4. Garth Brooks, Garth Brooks, Capitol
5. It's All About to Change, Travis Tritt, Warner Bros.
6. What Do I Do With Me, Tanya Tucker, Capitol
7. Put Yourself in My Place, Pam Tillis, Arista
8. All I Can Be, Collin Raye, Epic
9. Pocket Full of Gold, Vince Gill, MCA

Feelin' Fit!

Smokers need to supplement their calcium intake. Nicotine has a mild calcium-depleting effect. Calcium supplementation will help avoid breaking bones in accidents.

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Creature feature



Chuckwalla (Sauromalus obesus)

Home: Rocky deserts of Southern California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Mexico

Habits: Hides under rocks or in crevices at night, amazes in morning to bask in sun. Eats leaves, buds flowers, often from the creosote bush.

Claim to fame: Folds of skin on its sides are accessory lymph glands in which it can store liquid, when available, for use in prolonged dry spells. When disturbed, chuckwalla gulps air to distend its body and wedge itself tightly in place. This serves as protection from predators. The Detroit Zoo has a chuckwalla.

SOURCE: Detroit Free Press, "Macmillan Illustrated Animal Encyclopedia"; Research by NANCY ROSS-FLANIGAN

VIDEOVIEW

By Jay Bobbin

(Ratings for each film begin with an "asterisk" rating — one moaning "poor," four moaning "excellent" — followed by the Motion Picture Association of America rating, and then by a family-viewing guide, the key for which appears below.)

STARTING THIS WEEK: "LITTLE MAN TATE" (Orion, \$92.98): Jodie Foster made her directorial debut with this gently affecting drama, in which she also stars as the mother of a prodigy (Adam Hann-Bryd) whose enrollment in a school for the gifted causes some unforeseen problems, since a psychologist (Dianna Weist) has her own ideas of what would be best for him. Singer Harry Connick Jr. makes an acting appearance. *** (PG; AS, P)

"MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO" (Columbia/Tri-Star/New Line, \$92.88): Director Gus ("Drugstore Cowboy") Van Sant Jr. earned critical acclaim for his drama of two young hustlers — well-played by Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix — who struggle to come to grips with the lifestyle they've chosen while they're on the move. For his performance, Phoenix won an award from the Venice Film Festival. *** (R; AS, N, P, V)

"THE TAKING OF BEVERLY HILLS" (Columbia/Tri-Star, \$92.88): After his last TV's "Wiseguy," Ken Wahl found another dose of action in this adventure, playing a football veteran who becomes the oas person able to stop an evil genius' (Robert Davi) vengeful schemes to loot all of the swank businesses on Rodeo Drive. Matt ("Doctor, Doctor") Frewer co-stars as an able assistant to the sudden hero. ** (R; AS, P, V)

COMING SOON: "LATE FOR DINNER" (Columbia/Tri-Star, Apr. 29): Ex-"China Beach" co-star Brian Wimmer plays one of two cryogenically frozen pals oodily defrosted. (PG)

"PASTIME" (SVS/Triumph, Apr. 29): William ("Wiseguy") Russ stars in a baseball drama featuring appearances by several real-life greats of the game. (PG)

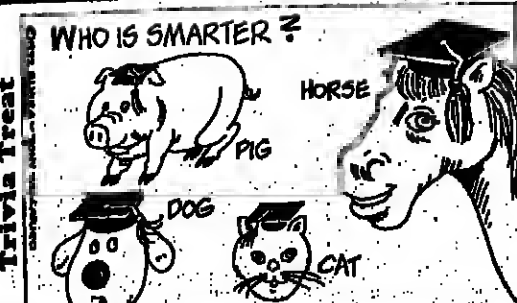
FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; OV, particularly graphic violence.

CHERYLYN SARKISIAN IS BETTER KNOWN AS _____

ALL THE PEOPLE ON EARTH CAN FIT HERE... WHERE?

ADOLPHE SAX PATENTED WHAT INVENTION IN 1846?

ANSWERS: 1. THE SKYPHONE. 2. THE PLO. 3. CHERRY. 4. THE GRAND CANYON.



Would You Believe.....

In the ninth century, there was a Holy Roman emperor by the extremely colorful name of Guido of Spolito.

In India, a condemned man was granted mercy after his hangman fainted on the job. It was to be the hangman's first execution.

Car wrecks kill nearly 50,000 people each year in the United States.

You have to be at least 18 years old to buy a condom in Ireland.

In January 1956, 38 inches of rain fell on Hawaii in the course of just 24 hours.

A recent record for an ovarian cyst belonged to a woman in California. Doctors at Stanford University removed a 33-pound cyst from the 34-year-old patient.

Solution

ACROSS
1 Victim for short
8 Romantic tale
10 Peruvian
14 Abode
15 Mild oath
16 Tida
17 In single file
19 Harlequin
20 — Plaines
21 Too
22 Palmer of golf
24 Oleaginous
25 Pivot
26 Vary
28 Time way back
32 City on the Rhine
33 Spread-hand measure
34 Disorder
35 Shed
36 "Over —"
37 — example

DOWN
1 Like tame horse
2 Sound
3 Has regrets

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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